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It's never been done before: an arts collective has taken over a newspaper. Arts Lab articles appear wherever you see the logo

Goodbye from us

This is the last edition of the Herald and Post newspaper and it's goodbye from the editorial team but new niche products are planned for Northamptonshire. For details see page 5.

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22 Mill Street,
Bedford,
MK40 3HD

Main office:
01234 304403
news@localworld.co.uk

Managing Director:
Richard Duxbury

EDITORIAL
Editor:
Steve Scoles
07961334179
steve.scoles@hpnorthants.co.uk
Newsdesk: 07500893528/ 0787682517
Leisure: 07500893528
Sports desk: 07880332228

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Go out and start your own

Editor's Letter

Hello and goodbye. As you'll have noticed, this is both the first issue of The Herald & Post edited by the recently-revived Northampton Arts Lab, and the paper's last ever edition.

These two facts are not necessarily connected, but essentially you've got a respected and time-honoured institution given over into the custody of clowns who don't know what they're doing, just before the whole affair is irreparably destroyed forever. There may be a metaphor there somewhere.

As The Mercury & Herald, this was the longest continuously published newspaper in the world, so it's no small thing we're talking about. Skim through the 17th century obituaries – with people dead from "the purples", "rising lights" or being "planet-struck" – and realise that living in Northampton has never been a walk on the beach.

Famously far from it, in fact. This historic publication has certainly come a long way, starting out in a bitterly divided country soon after the English Civil War, and ending up in...uh...well, anyway, it's pretty old for a newspaper.

What's important here is that regional papers like this one are undergoing an extinction event, along with a number of their national counterparts.

This means that vital information about the places we actually spend our lives in gets increasingly squeezed out in favour of the latest international celebrity divorce or the ocean of reality-warping weasel faeces available online.

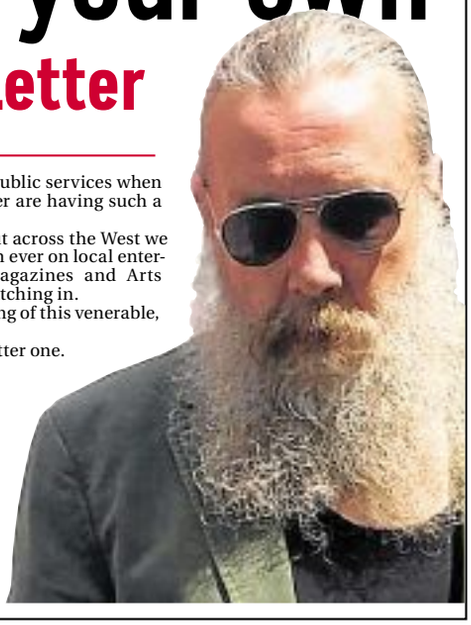
Who cares about collapsing public services when Brad and Jen/Angelina/whoever are having such a rotten time?

As once again the lights go out across the West we may come to depend more than ever on local enterprises, co-ops, alternative magazines and Arts Labs, which means everyone pitching in.

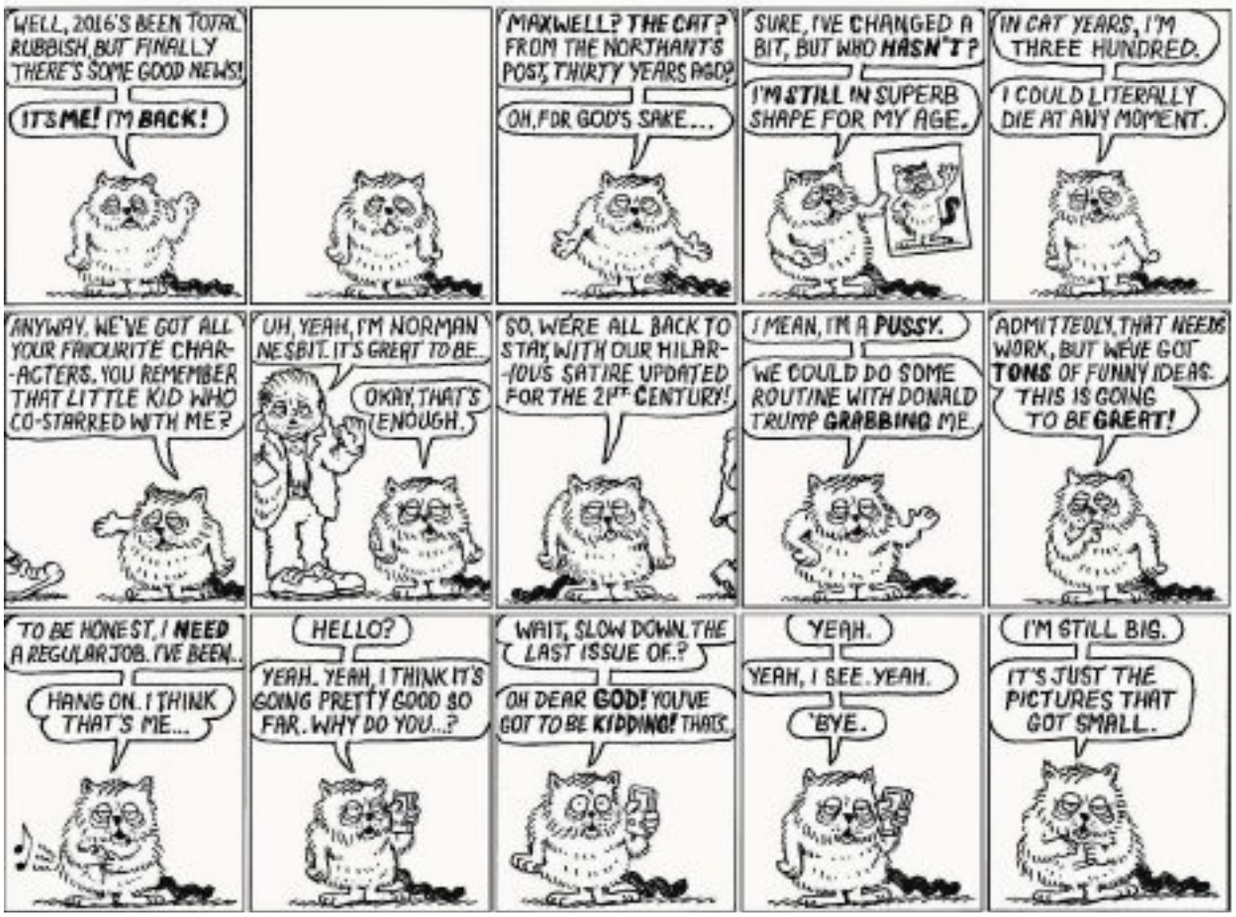
By all means mourn the passing of this venerable, important paper.

But then go out and start a better one.

Alan Moore



MAXWELL THE MAGIC CAT by Jill de Ray



Our thanks to Northampton Arts Lab for making this a very special edition of the Northants Herald and Post. You can find out more about Northampton Arts Lab by visiting their Facebook page at facebook.com/artslabnh/

The last Post will be followed by new era

BY STEVE SCOLES
stevescoles@yahoo.co.uk

Welcome to the final issue of the Northants Herald and Post and the dawn of a new era for publications in the county.

It has been my honour to edit the title for the past three years, initially from our offices off Bedford Road and eventually pretty much from a laptop.

It is typical of my luck to achieve editorship of a paper in my home town just as digital news makes us all editors.

But there would be no news if nothing ever changed and our publisher Trinity Mirror is preparing an array of new niche publications for Northamptonshire.

Commercial representative Lisa Milton is taking projects forward in the future.

In the meantime allow me to introduce you to a groundbreaking final edition of the Northants Herald and Post.

Northampton Arts Lab has seized the reins and showered us with articles which are peppered throughout the paper.

The organisation is a collective of all kinds of talent given the least helpful of all possible briefs: "see what you come up with!"

Among the noteworthy contributors is one Alan Moore who has kindly provided the Editor's Letter and facilitated the historic return of Maxwell the Magic Cat.

The content on offer is different, informative, insightful and entertaining.

We've got a fly on the wall view of teaching, a reflection on dyslexia, articles that play games with both form and content and some good old fashioned useful information.

Pages featuring work from the Arts Lab Takeover are marked with its logo.

You will also see some of our usual fare and extended kind words from people who have helped and supported the paper over many years.

NEW ERA: Lisa Milton will be overseeing new publications in the county

The modern post's founding editor Tony Boullemier reflects on the passing of an era.

We also have the journalistic debut of my eldest son Jed, who writes about visiting Palestine with the Fabian Society.

Lawrence John and Nick Bieber, my two right hand men, both give their personal insights into working on the H&P in an era that has seen everything from the Northampton Clown to the Cobblers loan saga.

Finally, I would like to thank you the readers for looking after us so well while we have been working for you.

Some of Northamptonshire's finest have worked for the H&P over the years - including the contributions to this final edition.

It has been an honour and a privilege to sneak myself in alonside them.

Steve Scoles will return...

Entries now invited for our Dec' 8th Sale
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The kids are all right: it's everything else

As part of the Northampton Arts Lab takeover of the H&P, a teacher tells of the reality of life in the classroom and why they are quitting

Go on. Tell me about the holidays. Tell me about the weekends free. Tell me about the short workday. Tell me it's just messing about with scissors and glue. Tell me, and I will chew your ear off with how wrong you are. Not figuratively – literally. I will bite your ear off.

Really, I should have seen this coming. The teachers I admired most told me this was stupid profession, and I agreed with them. I still did it. But I could see the reason why it had to be done, and it somewhat chimed with my own personal sensibilities and core beliefs. I love the experience of learning, and perhaps, just maybe, I could spread that.

Except that isn't the case. I can't remember the last time I had a five day week – usually it's at least six, as Sunday is spent marking and writing and planning. I know that's part of the job, but it becomes wearing when in actuality it's more a seven day week as I'll likely work on the Saturday as well. I'll also work before school. I'll also work when I get home. And if I'm not working, I'm definitely thinking about it. I don't actually have spare time. Time was, I could read a book in a week, a few days even. I genuinely have read two or three books this year, because I don't have the time, except when I do I'm too tired to give it the mental effort it needs to enjoy it properly. I've got a copy of Jerusalem sitting on a shelf waiting for me to start – it's no exaggeration to say I've been waiting to read this book for at least six years, and I haven't even started it yet because of schoolwork. This is why I handed in my notice after only half a term. I know what I signed up for, and this is not it.

Every day, it is an endless grind. Other jobs are grinds, yes – but they stop at the job, generally. Teaching follows you. In a way, it's the kids. Not their fault, but we sign up for the responsibility to teach your kids (note: not look after, or raise: teach), and that responsibility is huge, especially considering some of the cabbage-headed parents that exist. We do it for them, and in my resignation letter and when I tell the kids that I'm leaving, I'll make sure they know: it's not because of them. It's everything I have to deal with to get to them.

Never before have I known my life to be subsumed by something completely. Relationships have never taken over my life, school (when I was in it, not leading it) was a part of life. At university, I managed a relationship, a full-time university course, a part-time job, and still found time to write a novel and run a podcast in my spare time. Since I started training, I've been lucky enough to have a very understanding girlfriend who thankfully has supported me through this. But I can't do this to her, and I can't do this to myself. My stress levels never seem to waver, my health is bad and my girlfriend has just showed me a picture of when we first met – though not fat, I was certainly healthy. Now I'm a skinny rake, and not happy about it.

Organisation seems to be the key word. Keeping on top of paperwork, making sure I have planned in advance, resources are prepared, and you can lead a good healthy work/life balance. Except that it's principle. In practice, you are constantly playing catch up with culture of education. A constantly shifting National Curriculum, reminders in-house policies that you've never heard of before mean I can never actually teach how I want to, or I think best suits the children. The paperwork instilled from management, from the top and middle, make it unreasonable to do anything properly. But this is just the paperwork – even this might be surmountable if it weren't for the bloody interference.

Actual in-class teaching is constantly observed, scrutinised and deemed not quite good enough. In theory, they are there to form part of your Professional Development. In practice, it feels much more like a game: what did you do that was adequate, and what did you do that wasn't up to scratch according to some form of invisible standards that are unattainable because three or four different people have an idea about what is expected, only their ideas are different, they haven't spoken to each other and whose ideas don't agree with each other anyway.

Knowledge isn't valued, nor the compunction to inspire and light ideas that inspire children. Instead, it is the expectations of three ways to differentiate work in a manner that doesn't make sense or take into account a child's personal feelings towards the work. If a child doesn't get it, well, they should because their previous levels of progress say they should. Learning doesn't work that way – but that's way we've been told we have to teach. We'll make it work, as much as putting a gauze bandage on a head wound will keep you alive.

Some have said I'm bailing way too early. I disagree. I feel I'm getting out while I still can. I'm young, I can retrain, and getting out of this gives me an opportunity to still have a life. If you're a teacher reading this and this chimes with you, get out. If you're thinking about getting into teaching, don't do it. Government trickled down all the way to middle management to suck the life and joy and fun and experience of teaching. You may as well stack shelves.

The writer of this column wishes to remain anonymous. They have enjoyed their time teaching, as far as they can, but now wish to capitalise on something else.

Deaf footballer meets Liverpool stars at the ball

A deaf Northampton Town Ladies footballer has been left starstruck after mingling with the stars of Liverpool and Manchester City at a charity ball - including Reds' manager Jurgen Klopp, and captain Jordan Henderson.

Liverpool fan Claire Stancliffe was among a number of players for GB Deaf Women's football team who were invited to the James Milner Foundation's annual event on Sunday in Manchester.

The foundation - run by the Liverpool midfielder - had helped to send Claire and her team to the Deaf World Cup last year with a £5,000 donation - thanks to a social media campaign run by Claire.

The 27-year-old, who lives in Wellingborough, was able to personally thank Milner at the Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory-themed event, as well as meet his current and past team-mates.

IN THE RED: Claire Stancliffe with Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp

Jail for man who slit US girl's neck

BY NICHOLAS BIEBER
nicholas.bieber@hpnorthants.co.uk

A man has been jailed for seven years for the attempted murder of a 19-year-old girl who flew in from the USA to meet him.

David Russell, 25, of Duston, was sentenced at Northampton Crown Court on Tuesday, having been found guilty following a trial in September. He will serve seven years in prison and seven on licence.

Evidence heard by the jury revealed Russell (*pictured*) had an online search history of phrases like 'how to kill someone and get away with it', 'best knife to kill' and 'how to knock someone unconscious'. He had researched them as his teenage victim was flying into the country from California to visit him.

Russell, who worked at McDonald's Sixfields at the time, had formed a relationship with the victim via social media in September 2009. He called himself Oliver Sykes, band member of British rock band, Bring Me The Horizon.

The court heard how the couple began communicating everyday, but eventually the victim discovered that Russell had a girlfriend and was leading a double life. She sent a message to Russell's girlfriend through Facebook telling her that they had been speaking to each other.

On April 1, 2011 the victim flew into the UK. She landed at Heathrow and made her way to Northampton. Russell met her at Northampton train station and they got a taxi to Harlestone woods.

Russell told the victim that his grandfather had taken him to these woods and asked her to sit down.

He then blindfolded her and asked her to put her head back and arms out because he had a gift for her.

Speaking in court, the victim said she then felt her throat being slit. She became aware of bleeding and stood up. He then stabbed her in the right shoulder twice.

The victim says she then fell, before he sat on her, tried to strangle her, head-butted her and hit her head with a log.

She said: "I remember him saying, 'why won't you die?'."

Russell only left the scene after the teenager said she had given his name to customs at the airport and told him she would not tell anyone what had happened.

The girl retraced her steps out of the woods and sought help from a nearby house.

Russell was later arrested at his home by police. He claimed she'd been blackmailing him and that he had intended to just scare her by scratching her neck.

Russell was arrested and charged in April 2011, and found guilty following a trial in September 2016.

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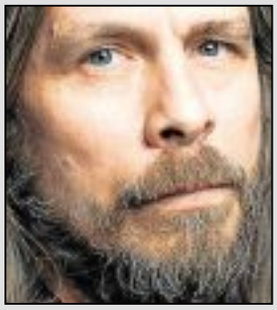
MY PERSONAL PLAYLIST

Kenneth J Nash



Personal Playlist with the Northants singer/song writer

Martin Simpson
Never Any Good
I saw him perform this song live and it captivated me.

Bad Ken
Sheelanagig
I love the fusion of jazz, funk and folk music.

Blue Rose Code
Skin & Bones and Light
Light shines from darkness with this song.

David Frost
State on the Union
Ten years ago I saw a YouTube clip of this and it blew me away.

Kevin Pearce
So On
He is a great musician and artist.

text 2 text

This week's Text 2 Text is with Inspector Julie Mead from Northamptonshire Police

What song makes you emotional?

The Show Must Go On by Queen. What we (the police) are dealing with at work we can't stop, or walk away.

What is your favourite sandwich?

As a northern girl would have to be ham and pease pudding on a nice stottie!

What scares you?

Mice. Total irrational phobia. Would rather wrestle with a criminal than see a mouse!

If Inspector Julie Mead was a fruit, what fruit would she be and why?

A bad apple!!!! Only joking! A blueberry as they are good for you!

What was the last thing you broke?

Wing mirror of my car while reversing out of my drive. . .it's at an angle and very narrow! Haven't mentioned it to Mr Mead yet. . .

What song do you want played at your funeral?

Meet Me Half Way by the Black Eyed Peas. I am sure that my loved ones will do just that!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Robbed of £2k

A motorist was robbed of £2,000 in cash after being dragged out of his car by a gang close to The Racecourse in Northampton. The robbery happened in Derby Road, off Kettering Road, some time between 2.20pm and 2.30pm last Tuesday, November 22.

Motorbike collision

A motorcyclist was injured in a collision on the A45 at Weedon Bec on Monday. It happened at 2.15pm at the junction with Cavalry Hill, when the motorcyclist was in collision with a Ford Focus.

Gas blast by thieves

Thieves stole cash from an ATM at a Texaco garage in Wellingborough Road on Monday. The offenders used a gas cylinder to cause an explosion which damaged the machine and enabled them to steal a quantity of cash.

Farm is targeted

A farm in Clopton in East Northants was subjected to a number of incidents during November. These included deer poaching, hare coursing, damage to crops and hedges and the theft of a lock and chain from a gate between November 14 and 26.

Jail for sex offender

Stuart Murray McNeill, 49, who sexually assaulted a girl three decades ago will serve at least six years in prison and be on the Sex Offenders' Register for life. The assaults took place between 1982-89.

The world's first edible grotto

SWEET TREAT: It took 3,000 gingerbread tiles to make the structure

An edible Santa's Grotto claiming to be a 'world first' has opened at Weston Favell Shopping Centre in Northampton.

The structure, set up in the form of a traditional Christmas gingerbread house, opened to shoppers on Friday, November 18.

Hundreds gathered to see its unveiling which required a team of 11 bakers to put it together using 3,000 gingerbread tiles.

And although people are not allowed to eat the four-metre-high structure, they are now able to meet Father Christmas inside and have a picture with him.

The grotto, also made up of royal icing and mashmallow icicles, will be open until Christmas Eve, with tickets priced at £4 per child.

Northampton North MP Michael Ellis, who attended the opening - which followed a parade inside the centre - said: "I was thrilled to be invited to the world's first edible grotto, where Santa has now begun making appearances!

"As someone with a very sweet tooth, I was pleased to kick off the Christmas season and was very impressed with the high level of detail and craftsmanship in creating the grotto."

Council sorry for Town loan

MISSING MILLIONS: Loan was meant for redevelopment of Sixfields stadium

BY NICHOLAS BIEBER
nicholas.bieber@hpnorthants.co.uk

A council has 'unreservedly' apologised for the failings which have been identified in a damning report into it's £10.25m loan to Northampton Town FC.

Three years after the money was given to the club for the redevelopment of Sixfields stadium, a 32-page report into Northampton Borough Council's handling of the loan has been released.

The audit, by Price Waterhouse Cooper, reveals the authority had rushed to approve the loan due to 'political and management pressure', and that credit checks had identified the club as 'high risk' due to its financial performance.

It also found that too much money was given to the Cobblers - whose chairman at the time was David Cardoza - too soon and in advance of need.

Furthermore, it was also discovered there was no formal monitoring by the council - whose leader at the time was current Northampton South MP, David Mackintosh - of the physical progress of the construction works at Sixfields.

Following the report's findings, the council's leader Cllr Jonathan Nunn issued an apology, adding: "The council's management of this project fell seriously short of the standards people have a right to expect from their council, and that is wholly unacceptable."

A police investigation into 'alleged financial irregularities' in relation to the loan is ongoing, and the loan money is still yet to be fully located.

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Newsdesk diaries

Reporting for communities across Northants

A community voice has been silenced today as the Northants Herald & Post is closed.

The end of 41 years of producing a paper for Northamptonshire has arrived.

Too many local papers are closing and a lack of choice and variety of news is happening, but it is not good for anyone.

We live in a capitalist society where choice is good and the more the merrier, to have one voice silence is not good.

I have represented the Northants Herald & Post for a large part of my journalistic career.

I could have moved on, I could have gone to pastures new, but I knew deep down the grass was never going to be as green elsewhere.

I live in Northamptonshire so why should I not write for a county newspaper.

The fact I do it, or should I now say did it, gave me immense pride.

I represented the county when I went places and the paper. In personal terms, being a reporter is all I have done.

It has been my career, my profession and therefore my job.

If I wasn't any good at it I would not still be doing it.

I have had the opportunity to chat to people, see things

AN HONOUR: Lawrence John

and visit events which some of you would not do. But I have always done so in a professional manner and have never taken anything I went to lightly.

Sure, I had the press pass, the press badge but I got to experience the event and then report on it by taking pictures, tweeting it all and adding the words.

I have been involved in all aspects of the county, visiting it daily with Lunchtime Life; interviewing people about their jobs such as a plastic surgeon or the senior coroner for Northamptonshire; attending press conferences at the county council or police; getting people to do Text 2 Text or Personal Playlist and writing about the quality shoes made in the county.

I had great joy in attending some of the Rugby World Cup matches in 2015.

I loved the whole experience of going and painting a picture of what it was like at the event. As the headline said in one of my articles from the tournament when Wales lost to South Africa, "Saved by Sauls of Spratton".

Even in the midst of rugby and Twickenham, I spotted the Northamptonshire angel.

What I have enjoyed most about my role at the paper and I would like to think I could do elsewhere, is the freedom.

I enjoyed the freedom to do what I thought was a good idea, take it, run with it and turn it into something which was a good read.

I liked being my own boss in coming up with the ideas and turning them into reality.

Yes, they all had to be added to the newslist to see what would or would not get in the paper, but it is for me all about being creative and creativity gave me freedom.

I have also enjoyed my blogs which started out as The Weekley Signpost to Life and then became The Case of. . . and I know some of you have enjoyed them, which for me has been a bonus.

And now the paper chase has finished.

The last paper has gone to press and it is over.

I am glad I got the chance to be part of it all, got the opportunity to have my words read by you and I hope I get the chance again.

Lawrence John

Facing up to the end of this rollercoaster ride

So this is it, the end of the Northants Herald & Post.

Some could see it coming, but I couldn't. I wouldn't.

They said it'd only last a week, but it lasted 41 years.

They said we'd never match the Chron. But on many an occasion, we beat them.

They said we'd only attract a small audience. Tell that to the millions we are leaving behind.

They said newspapers are dying. We had a 100 per cent pick-up rate. (How's all that for underdogs?!)

But as journalists, besides reporting the facts, we must also face them.

And the one we now have to accept, is that we're closing.

This really is my final piece of copy, in the last edition of the H&P. So I had better make it special!

For many of you who know me, it'll be no surprise to hear that I'm still smiling, despite this sad occasion.

Because when I look back on my three years at the H&P, I think of so many happy – and downright barmy - memories.

I've chased the Northampton clown, hitched a ride on a hot air balloon, sampled one of the hottest curries in the world and chucked a bucket of icy cold water over my head.

I've also met celebrities, spent a night on the beat with police officers, been catapult-

SO LONG: Nicholas Bieber

ed 130ft into the air and appeared on a comedy TV show.

Talk about a rollercoaster journey!

But it hasn't been all sunshine and blue skies. I'll forever remember, and be touched, by the heartbreaking story of India Chipchase.

A beautiful young woman who went out clubbing with friends in Northampton, only to be lured into the hands of a sick, fantasist killer and never returned home.

Last week's march in memory of her gives me hope for the thousands of young people who go out in the town in future, that they will be more aware than ever of the dangers around them.

I'll also keep hoping that the family of David Brickwood – a 74-year-old grandfather who was stabbed to death in his own home in Northampton in 2015 – will get justice for his cold, callous murder. His sons especially have waited and suffered in pain for far too long.

And lastly, I will forever admire and have tremendous respect for the staff and fans of Northampton Town – a football club which was just days away from collapse, only to rise from the ashes and be crowned champions of League Two. What a footballing story this was. Leicester who?

Hopefully it is not long now until we find out what truly happened to that £10.25 million loan, which led the club to its nightmare situation, and that the culprits are served the punishment they deserve. Although I'm disappointed we won't be able to cover it, I'll certainly be keeping a close eye on the outcome.

So, whether they are happy or sad memories, this leaves me to safely say that whenever I look back on my special time at the H&P, I'll always be reminded what an amazing county this is, full of truly incredible people.

It is because of you that I'm smiling, and that the late nights, long weekends and headaches have all been worthwhile. So as I finally get off this rollercoaster ride, have a quick stretch and bid you a fond farewell, I'll whisper gently: can I have another go, please?!

Nicholas Bieber

YourVoice

Your comments

Thank you Herald and Post, a true community newspaper

The mid 1970s is remembered for many things.

For instance, the building of the Grosvenor Centre and Greyfriars Bus Station happened at that time. Northampton lost its unitary status and we saw the set-up of the present two tier structure of the Borough Council and County Council.

The mid 1970s is also remembered for the expansion of the town by Northampton Development Corporation with many new housing estates under construction. It also gave us the 'Herald and Post'.

As a Borough Councillor and County Councillor I have relied on the Herald and Post to give me the news what's going on in the town in both our neighbourhoods and within various organisations.

The Herald and Post has symbolised what local community newspapers should be about.

It has done a great job in promoting good local causes and events but also holding those in power to account.

As a local politician I have been asked some tough questions by Herald and Post journalists in the past.

It has also given a voice to people and communities that sometimes got overlooked.

It ran campaigns that were important to ordinary people.

I can remember the campaign it ran in mid 2000s to lower town centre parking charges.

I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the Herald and Post and the service it has given to our town over the past 41 years.

Of course, the success of the Herald and Post has been down to the talented staff it has employed throughout the years.

It is strangely a moment of huge celebration and great sadness.

Thank you Herald and Post. You will be missed.

Councillor Danielle Stone

Lifeline for local residents has been powerful force for good

I am a great fan of newspapers.

There is something naturally authoritative and reassuring about holding a newspaper and turning its pages.

The same feeling is certainly not occasioned by the internet, or social media, which does not have the same reputation.

The Northampton Herald and Post newspaper has been a key lifeline for thousands of local people for many years. It is a tragedy to lose it.

A local politician like me feels that loss very keenly because we have a relationship in which we can both benefit; constituents hear about what their politicians have been doing through its pages and the newspaper sometimes hears through an MP like me what my constituents have been doing.

The Northampton Herald and Post has been a superb example of an important local source of trusted information and it will be sorely missed.

On a personal note, I have got to know the excellent journalists at the Northampton Herald and Post and enjoyed a strong working relationship with them since before I was elected to Parliament in 2010.

They can be proud of their contribution to our town in producing this newspaper and reporting on the lives and events of its residents.

I wish them all the very best in the future and thank them for their public service to the Northampton community- and for helping us all be better informed."

Michael Ellis MP for Northampton North

Sail on, old friend, hear my message of hope and thanks

Over a long life span of 72 years I have written many letters of bereavement and gratitude to family, friends, beloved pets and even my pet donkey Jason.

This letter has to be a first – it's to a PAPER... here we go...

Dear old friend Herald & Post

My heart is grieving already for the loss of you and the comfort I found sitting at the kitchen table, mug of coffee in my hand and seeing recent familiar names such as Steve Scoles (Editor) and Lawrence John – two of many mentors whose kindness and encouragement have kept my spirits shining.

I expect, Herald & Post, you can remember back in 2002, when you were based in Derngate and I, very shyly, climbed the stairs to see your then Editor Richard Howarth.

TEAM H&P: The opening of the newspaper's media centre at Northampton Guildhall in 2014

He very kindly gave me some of his precious time to advise me on getting publicity for a very important cause – the freeing of Tibet.

I told him all about a 24 year old Tibetan Nun who had been incarcerated in Drapchi Prison in Tibet, suffering torture and isolation in a dark underground hole since she was 13 years of age.

Not only did your Richard become a loyal friend to Tibet, he also introduced me to Martin Smith, a very young reporter at the beginning of his career.

Richard and Martin went beyond the call of duty including a story on Tibet every week leading up to the now annual event of the Tibetan Flag Raising for Peace at the Northampton Guildhall.

The nun, Ngawang, was given honorary citizenship by the Council and then your pages shone with a double page story and pictures.

There are no words good enough to explain the gratitude myself and His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Representative, Mrs Kelsang Takla, felt for your help.

Then you felt more sadness as your Editor Richard and reporter Martin left for pastures new!

You went on to move home twice, finally out of the County.

Those who have moved know how traumatic this can be.

But you survived, even without me being able to pop by with your fuel under the disguise of CAKES... in fact you received the icing on the cake 3 years ago in your new Editor Steve Scoles.

It was your Steve that encouraged me to write blogs for you and I am very grateful. Oh dear... when you have gone so will my blogs outlet.

Another memory is Lawrence John visiting my home and also writing a brave letter on behalf of Tibet.

There are so many people over the years that have passed through your pages and they all have a very special place in my memory box of thoughts.

I expect someone reading my letter to you will say "change is inevitable".

Yes it is but at what price?

Are we leaving you behind dear paper, as we move into an age where heads are bowed, looking at a screen and fingers that were once entwined around your collection of pages now just TAP TAP TAPS. So old friend, thank you. I will shed a tear at your passing but try to end on a note of HOPE for you and all your loyal family and friends.

"Hope opens doors when loss and despair closes them".

There is a poem called Columbus by Joaquin Miller.

He wrote about the day Columbus's ship the "Pinta" was ravaged by storms and during the darkness and exhaustion he wrote in his ship's log "This day we sail on".

These words inspired Joaquin to write his poem.

I dedicate this to you dear paper...

"What shall we do when hope is gone?

The words leapt like a leaping sword...

Sail on, sail on, sail on And on."

You will be forever remembered in hope.

Thank you Herald & Post.

SAIL ON.

Caroline Scattergood

POEM OF THE WEEK: Paper Cuts by James McInerney

For the final edition, celebrated Northampton poet James McInerney has written this poem called Paper Cuts

The ink is barely dry and yet the final words are said; silence lingers at the edges - its pain, sharp and tender to the touch.

Every rewrite, every edit, matters not for all is lost; time is stolen as though unworthy, regardless of the cost.

Empty pages, empty spaces, papercuts that create scars; never more, never less, forever present in our hearts.

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How to find reliable news
(In a post Herald and Post world)

BY JOSHUA SPILLER

Dan checks his facebook. His friends, and the articles recommended specifically for him, are all saying the same thing. They must be right. He can trust them.

He votes for Donald Trump.

A week later, in Northampton, Steve reads a newspaper, shaking his head. The President-Elect has been announced. Stupid Americans, he thinks. What were they thinking?

Then he turns the page. He reads about the third runway at Heathrow, but remains oblivious to the terrorist killing of twenty civilians in Bangladesh, as the newspaper's editors didn't see fit to include this story. Too far away.

He reads about an accident abroad, the article keen to stress that British people died in it, as if that's why he should care. As if, if it were only foreigners, what would be the story?

He sees photographs that, while they capture part of a heartbreaking or significant event, inevitably leave other parts out.

And he reads about money - money in politics, in fashion, in sport, in pretty much everything except the weather. As if that were the only meaningful lens through which to see the world, and that wasn't even up for debate.

Steve closes the paper and gets on with his day, confident he's seeing the world as it really is.

***

Journalism is always subjective. By choosing to tell certain stories, they've chosen not to tell others. By choosing one moment, one angle for a photograph, every other moment and angle is left out. Bias is unavoidable, but it's important to be aware it exists.

Today, though, there are further complications...

In America, the John Oliver show reports that - over two weeks in the run-up to the presidential election - 38% of news on some Republican-leaning facebook pages was partly or completely false, as was 19% on some Democrat-leaning pages. The internet means these falsehoods can spread faster than ever.

Most newspapers are avowedly right-wing or left-wing. They are not committed to the truth, but to their own worldview. And they are written by journalists who may let a momentary mood colour their argument; may, being overworked, not fact-check their piece thoroughly; and will, as humans, each have their own agenda, perhaps reporting furiously on the road-tax hike that will affect them, while omitting the lack of teachers at underprivileged schools, because, hey, their kids don't go there.

Even worse, big businesses also have a vested interest in journalism. To maintain their profits for as long as possible, oil companies deliberately try to slow the growing acceptance of climate change. They have the media promote both sides of the debate equally, while failing to mention that only a vanishing minority of scientists are deniers.

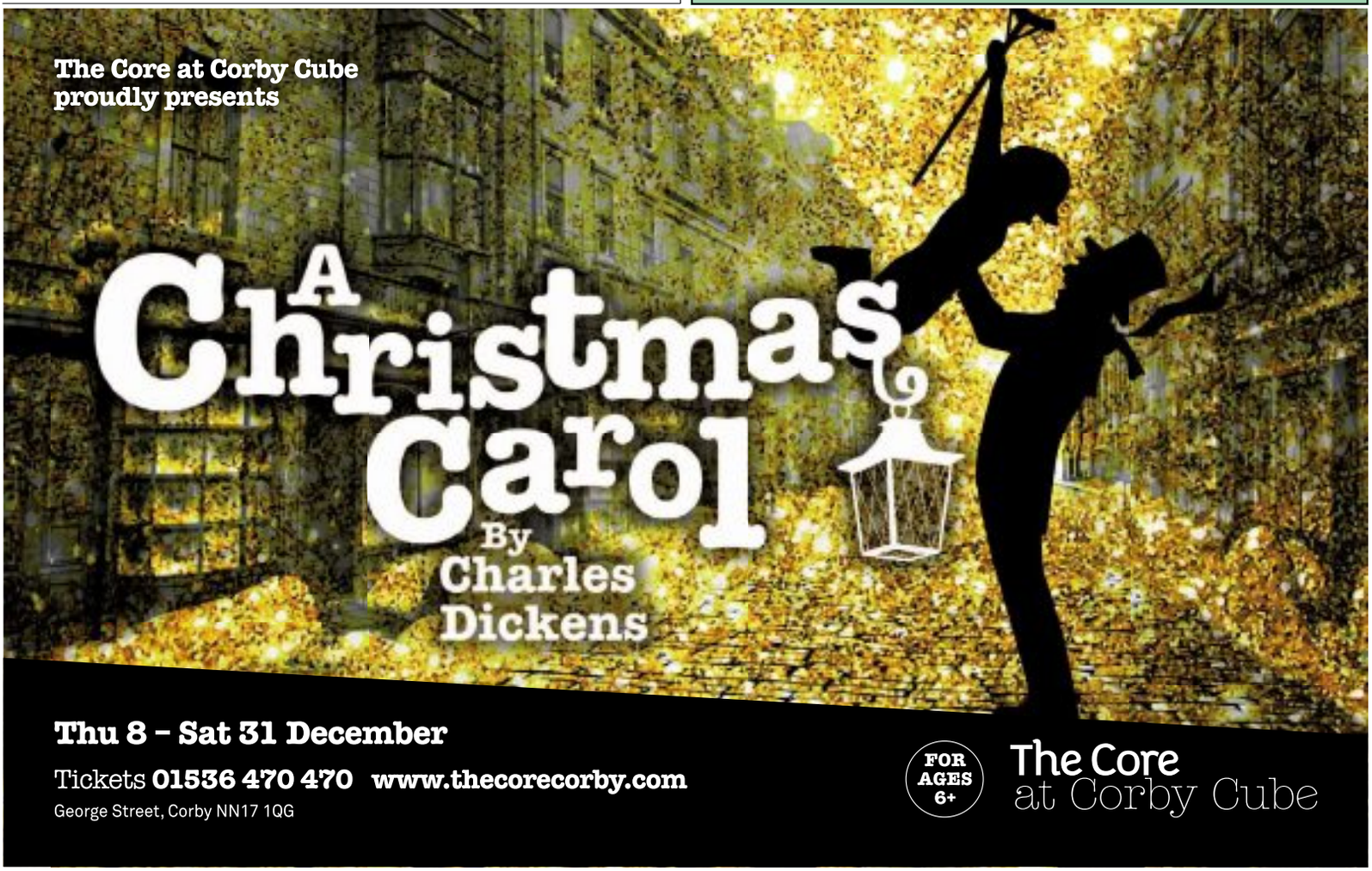
***

So in a world saturated with mis- and disinformation, where information is more important than ever, what can you trust?

My advice: stick to the facts. People tend to regurgitate opinion pieces they've read. Facts encourage you to think for yourself, partly because, being briefer, they give you more time to do so. This might stop a lot of nonsense from going viral.

And if you find good investigative journalism, for goodness' sake, support it.

It's more vital than ever.



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The future shape of Northampton

Arts Lab

BY MEGAN LUCAS
Arts Lab Chair and Archtectural Designer

The devil is in the detail, is an architectural cliché, but one that carries an awful lot of truth along with it.

In recent years, Northampton has found itself adorned with large expanses of crushed hardcore, home only to the ghosts of buildings past.

Setting aside the rights and wrongs of the various demolitions, our town has an opportunity to shape its architectural landscape to an extent not seen since the days of the New Town Act, and the energy that was so attractive to the aliens of Linda Jardim's spectacular song.

It might be cynical to think that we'll squander this chance to make a positive change to the built environment, but on recent evidence, it is the most likely outcome.

That's not to say the town is devoid of good quality design. The railway shed conversion that will become the Student's Union at the new University campus is one highlight.

It is, of course, a subjective matter, one person's Greyfriars Bus Station is another person's Guildhall. Whatever your opinion on modern design, there is a larger problem afoot; the small details are being forgotten or ignored.

Take the recently constructed supermarket on the Towcester Road. Such a development will never win any awards for architecture, but would it have been too much to expect the most visible elevation to be a little more interesting than an expanse of cladding, with a few advertising hoardings? On such a prominent site, shouldn't more consideration have been given to such an obvious aspect of the design?

GREY MATTER: The demolition of the bus station left an opportunity

Or take a recently constructed Nursing Home in town. At some point, the decorative window lintels included within the planning application, were value-engineered away. It made the difference between an attractive, if innocuous building, and an uninspiring expanse of brick, with awkward looking windows. And then there is the new train station, a vast improvement on its predecessor, yet with its wheelchair-unfriendly main entrance, it comes with a major flaw that could have been easily avoided.

You might wonder why these little things matter, but it all has a cumulative effect on how we experience our town. You probably wouldn't notice them unless you were looking out for them, but subconsciously, you would and you do. The built environment has a huge impact on how we live our lives and our enjoyment of them. We can and should do better. We need to participate with the planning process as a community, and not just when opposing various developments in our back yard.

Northampton contains some fantastic architecture. Take a walk through the centre of town and look above the shop-fronts, and you can see it for yourself. We have a chance to improve this town, but not if we continue to ignore the little details. Whilst they are forgotten, the larger details will always be unrealised potential.

Log on to our website for the latest news and sport - northampton-news-hp.co.uk

The case of. . . leaving like John Wayne in The Searchers

Lawrence John

To find more blogs and video diaries from Northants Herald & Post journalist Lawrence John visit our website.
Follow him on Twitter @LawrenceJohnHP

Is this The Reichenbach Falls moment for The Case of...?

Is this its' Little Caesar moment when we say: Mother of Mercy! Is this the end of Rico?

At the moment it is a case of a game of musical chairs but the song being played is 'When the Music's Over' by The Doors.

The lyrics go: When the music's over , When the music's over, yeah , When the music's over, Turn out the lights , Turn out the lights , Turn out the lights, yeah ....Or is it The End by The Doors which starts: This is the end , Beautiful friend , This is the end, My only friend, the end....

The case of....has presented you with a mini adventure each week, giving you a whirl around the world, a slanted look at my life and a personal observation of the tide and time.

It has been a delightful whimsy to tell you what I have been thinking about or what I have seen out there in the modern 21st century world we call life.

There has been great fun in putting the thoughts into words and the words into the right order to make sentences and paragraphs which culminate in the case of....

But in the words of one of The Rolling Stones songs It's All Over Now...this blog has reached the end of the road, it is about the ride off into the sunset but just before it goes it will stand in the doorway like a silhouetted John Wayne in the film The Searchers before turning and walking away.... But like this blurb says it will not die, it will live on...out there between the stars and the horizon...

The fun has been putting together a weekly blog and hopefully entertaining you the reader and leaving you feeling better about your day.

And so...I leave you now with the words and song (see online) of Peter Cook and Dudley Moore's Not only...but also..Goodbye

The case of....will be back but not on this channel dear reader.

I have decided to pitch my bloggers tent up on new ground on my Facebook page.

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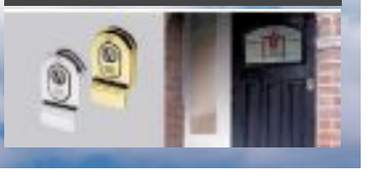

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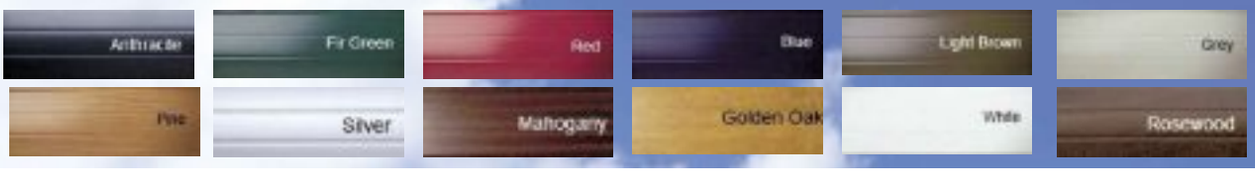

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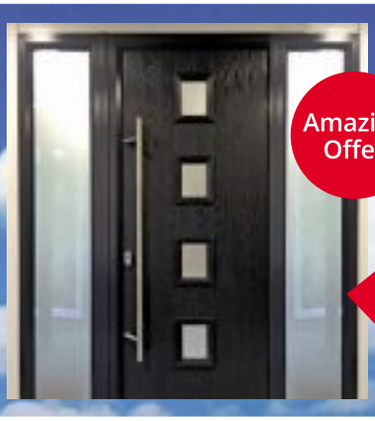

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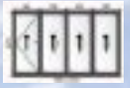

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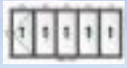

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Finding the words to

BY ALISTAIR FRUISH

Dyslexia is a fiendish word, designed to be un-spelllable by dyslexics.

That includes yours truly. They finally figured out this writer's brain functioned dyslexic-wise in the last week spent at school, way back in the 80s.

Yet, these days, that brain spends quite a lot of its time focused on a keyboard, writing novels and turning out other word based stuff. In the past this mildly malfunctioning grey-matter even gained a degree in English and taught it, and creative writing too.

All writers start off as, and continue as, readers. No writing is created in isolation. However the child Alistair did not become a fluent reader until he was around 10, having been helped along that road a bit by the Northants Post starting to print Maxwell the Magic Cat – around when he was about 9 years old.

As for writing, even now it is quite likely your correspondent's name will by typed out as Alitsiar, and his "sheep killing eyes" will fail to notice this, at least for a good while.

Never-the-less this late on-set of full literacy was a relatively lucky hand to be dealt, because according to statistics presented by the National Literacy Trust around 5 per cent, or 1.7 million adults in England, have literacy levels below those expected of an 11-year-old.

That is also the average reading age in the B-cat local where I have been working closely with the prison library for the last 4 years.

This faintly faulty noggin has also been employed as a writer-in-residence in over 35 other English prisons (in nearly every kind and category of jail, including the military prison) over the last 15 years, often engaged in projects related to reading or writing.

Though dyslexia is just one of many reasons why someone might fail to learn to read proficiently - there have been many other types of difficulty that have jumped out and become clear in these various nicks.

If you fail to learn to read well, and do not have good general comprehension, then in this culture your options for life have been limited in a profound way.

And probably your confidence stunted too. School damaged, you may have come to hate the idea of learning. Poverty is not limited to lack of cash. It is lack of access to positive support networks, and the curtailing of ideas. The vast majority of prisoners I have met in local B-cat prisons have not been middle class.

One of the things that helped get this brain in gear, and into reading fluently on its own, was the enjoyment of comic strips. Maxwell the Magic Cat in the old Post was, and remains, a favourite. Unaware then that it had been created by a local megalomaniacal mandrill

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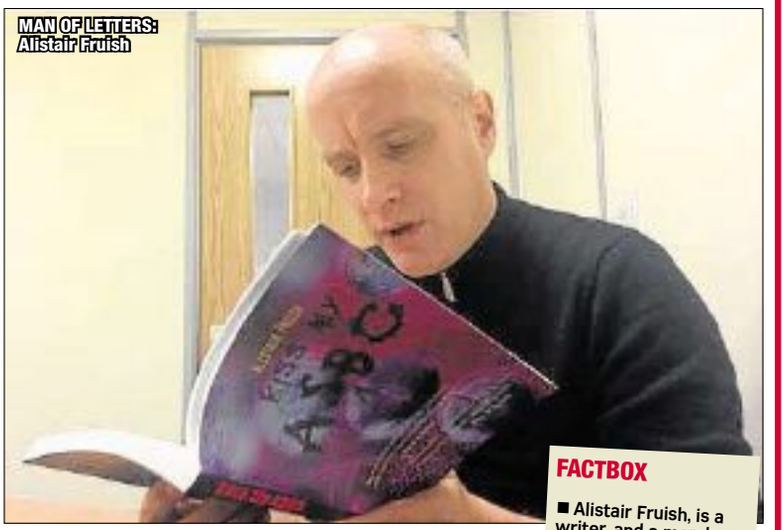

MAN OF LETTERS: Alistair Fruish

impersonator, that was hiding behind the name of one of history's most infamous child killers.

Looking forward to the paper coming through the letter box was a highlight. A reason to scan through the newsprint, comics can help lead a keen mind out into the world of ideas. Comics can fire imaginations and help inspire the love of words. And they can be a serious laugh too, weaving a powerful magic that can lead people forward. We see this happening in the prison library. It will be good to see Maxwell again, posted once more through unsuspecting letterboxes, to inspire new eyes to dunk themselves deep into the meme pool.

FACTBOX

- Alistair Fruish, is a writer, and a member of the ArtsLab
- Experience a performance of his one sentence long mono-syllabic novel the sentence (*pictured inset left*) on the 15th of January here: http://thecockpit.org.uk/show/the_sentence

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Postcards from the past can still inspire us today

BY MORGEN BAILEY

Author, creative writing tutor, blogger and Arts Lab member Morgen Bailey has shared with us her extensive collection of old Northampton postcards.

Her aunt and uncle have published several books about their hometown, Tring in Hertfordshire, and have been visiting postcard fairs for three decades. Joining them a few years ago inspired Morgen to start her own collection of Northampton and she now has nearly three hundred cards.

"Some collectors prefer them 'mint' where there is no writing or stamp on the back," Morgen tells us, "but I prefer the used ones as you get a glimpse of life up to a hundred years ago.

Some were even sent in the morning and received in the afternoon, ahead of the sender's arrival, and some inspire my own writing."

Having been a secretary since school, it is no surprise that the cards are filed alphabetically, starting with Abington Park, Abington Street, going through Castle Station, village areas including Dallington and Duston, vising the Grammar school and Northampton School for Girls, stopping for a little longer along Gold Street, through the Market Square, then Kettering Road via Northampton General Hospital, a quick dip in the 'New Baths', across the Racecourse (when it was a racecourse) and down into St. James before heading over to Weston Favell and a leisurely conclusion at the local churches.

While Morgen has snapped up some of the cards for less than a pound, others are investments at a cost in excess of £30 where trams, policemen and other items of interest make the cards more desirable to collectors.

Times may have changed where children are no longer able to stand on the Harborough Road in Kingsthorpe while their photographs are taken in their Sunday best, but we have these poignant and picturesque reminders of the rich history nestled within our town.

Have yourself a thrifty little Christmas. . .

BY THE FRUGAL WENCH

In his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond coined the cute acronym JAM for those "Just About Managing".

If this feels like you, you're not alone. There are almost six million working households who could be described as "just managing" according to the Resolution Foundation (www.resolutionfoundation.org), with a net income of between £12,000 and £34,000. These families tend to have one adult working full-time, claim some working tax credits, and after their bills are paid they don't have much left over.

Whilst this term might seem a basic rebranding of Squeezed Middles (those who found themselves struggling after the financial crisis of 2008), post-Brexit Britain is feeling a little more JAMmy than it was Squeezy. With pay growth projected to slow in light of the referendum result, the National Living Wage is no longer on track to reach £9 an hour in 2020 as had been anticipated in the 2016 Budget, but until we know what's going to happen, forecasts remain unreliable. Which means for many of us, crossing our fingers that things will pick up in 2017 and allow us to pay for a bit of Christmas indulgence is taking a real gamble.

Chances are you are already feeling the pressure of Christmas. From managing the expectations of friends and family, to resisting the calls to splurge from showy TV ad campaigns, as well as all those little hints from the bank that you could just extend that loan, or try a new credit card, even the steeliest resolve can be tested. What's just a little more debt, if it means seeing joy on your family's faces on Christmas morning?

Advertisers know all the tricks, too. Tesco's campaign producers BBH are running an ad series depicting what ordinary families go through in the run-up to Christmas, described by group brand director Michelle McEttrick in an interview with Campaign as an antidote to the emotional "wind tunnel" of heart-string tugging ads like John Lewis's. We have already seen the campaign stars buying mince pies in November, helping to normalise the extension of seasonal over-indulgence.

Many of my fellow frugalistas, despite being tighter than my new jeggings, absolutely live for Christmas. They spend all year crafting handmade gifts, stockpiling bargain presents, upcycling their old cards into gift tags, and wouldn't dare to skip Stir-up Sunday. I dream of joining their ranks of smugness and going into Advent with everything prepped. Alas, this year, I have almost nothing organised. Hence, I am relying on my arsenal of emotional resilience and creative prowess to counter the effects of commercial ads, peer pressure and, quite frankly, my own greed. And so, in order to remind myself in a way that hopefully other people might find useful too, here is my guide ro a JAM-filled Christmas.

The faceless global corporation is not your friend! If you walk into the shops without a clear idea of what you want you are more prone to all the tricks they have to part you from your money. Take a list, know your budget, and stick to it.

Comedian Dave Gorman once explained the difference between a 'present' and a 'gift'. A present is something you buy for someone that they might actually want. Gifts are things you buy for people when you feel obliged to spend a certain amount, have run out of imagination/patience, or don't really know the person you are buying for. If you are contemplating buying a gift for someone just so you can say you made the effort, should that person really be on your list?

So you can't afford a big present for your friend, but you're afraid of looking mean? Hampers are a great solution. Find baskets in charity shops, or cover a fruit box from the supermarket in festive paper. Then fill with treats! Individually the gifts might not look much but in a hamper you can make them look the bee's knees! Themed hampers could be A Pampering Night In with chocolate and beauty products, Retro Sweeties, with all their favourites, or Golf Lover, with tees, club covers, socks etc. Tailor it to the individual.If your friends are all giving gifts, be honest and either say you can't do it this year, or give them a heads up on the sort of budget you can manage. If they get sniffy, sorry, but they're not real friends. Good buddies might join in with something like a Charity Shop Challenge, to see how far you can stretch your gift budget (and do some good!), or do a 'voucher' swap for things like babysitting services, or invitations to a store cupboard supper.

On Christmas morning, your partner excitedly opens a tiny ring-box-sized package to find… an IOU? Seriously, if you do want to buy anything expensive the best thing you can do is wait, no matter what you can comfortably afford. We might have Black Fridays now (thanks, USA! Not!) but the best time to buy is still January, you know, when the Sales are on.

Whether it's gifts from the Frost Fayre or sprouts for Christmas dinner, may I recommend Northampton Market to you? Their overheads are lower than the shops', and so you can get some real bargains. I like visiting the fruit and veg stalls later in the day and just seeing what they have going cheap.

Be brave, and try making your own Christmas cake/mince pies/gingerbread. Homemade is cheaper, and won't contain horrid preservatives or palm oil (unless you put some in). Nothing beats freshly homemade bakes.

Last year's Christmas pudding that you never got round to eating will be fine! Those things could outlast a nuclear winter.

Finally, if the crowds are hectic, don't retreat online (I believe in supporting our local independent shops), and don't go to one of those equally hectic American coffee chains for a sit down. Pop into the library instead. Books, comfy chairs… and the coffee is much cheaper. Lovely!

For more tips see http://frugalwench.blogspot.co.uk/

For advice on managing debt at Christmas see https://www.citizensadvice.co.uk/pages/dont_present_debt_this_christmas/

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The story I hoped I'd never have to write

Tony Boullemier, founding editor of the Northants Post and its managing director for 13 years, reflects on the closure of his old title

In my 50 years in journalism, this is a story I hoped I'd never have to write.

An obituary for my old newspaper which dies today.

I am profoundly sorry for the staff who have lost their jobs. For the readers who won't get a free paper any more. And for advertisers who now face a newspaper monopoly.

The Herald & Post started life as the Northants Post 41 years ago in 1975. I was its launch editor and there were four other shareholders – my wife Marie, Richard Meredith, Ben Clingain and Mike Page.

We staked our houses into getting it off the ground and nearly went under within six months.

But we survived. Mike left, Richard Pinkham became a shareholder, Richard Meredith left and Dennis Carpenter and Richard Pointer became associate directors and played important roles.

We kept on expanding until we were distributing nearly 400,000 papers a week in four counties, with a full-time staff of 230.

Then, in 1988 an international publishing giant made us an offer we couldn't refuse. By then the owners were Marie, Ben, Richard Pinkham and myself and we decided to sell out.

We wanted to stay on and run it, taking advantage of the buyers' immense backing. But things quickly started to go wrong. Decisions were taken in New York and passed on.

They told us to stop publishing the Northampton paper twice a week, a great idea which had given us two weekly bites at the cherry and made money.

They ditched our brand awareness by renaming us Herald & Post along with a whole bunch of their own weeklies from Cardiff to Aberdeen. The concept was a H&P in every town, looking just the same. Like McDonald's. But papers aren't like burgers and in due course the whole project flopped.

We didn't like these and other changes and one by one, we left.

I returned to Fleet Street and later went on to write books and Marie took over running Derngate Gym and transferred her Pandora's Box column to the Chronicle & Echo, which still carries it today.

From then on, change at the Post was relentless. But the papers clearly weren't making as much money as the new owners hoped so in the 90s they sold it on to another large publisher. Ownership went on to change another five times. Distribution was cut again and again.

They closed all our ten branch offices from Banbury to Corby, from Leicester to Towcester. Then they closed the Northampton head office.

Our satellite towns had long since been abandoned, leaving papers in only Northampton and Wellingborough.

Some people still like the 'feel' of reading a printed paper.

Printed book sales have gone up these last two years while Kindle book sales have levelled off so is it possible the same thing could happen with newspapers?

I'm also sad that there's one less avenue for Northamptonians to hold their masters to account.

Fewer reporters in town mean less scrutiny of stupidity, negligence and inefficiency.

And there's been plenty of that in Northampton in the last couple of years, eg the Cobblers loan.

With no opposition left, the Chronicle & Echo may be tempted to relax. But it must not.

Northampton is getting bigger and so are its problems and we need to know what they are.

A lot has gone wrong since we arrived in 1975.

The Eastern District, originally so well-planned, has in many parts deteriorated; the town centre has lost many quality shops and the council crazily declined to accept Ikea; Milton Keynes, Leicester, Harborough and potentially Rushden Lakes are the places you go for Christmas shopping; County Hall has moved back and forth at ruinous expense.

Too many estates are being built before improvements to the road network; the demolished bus station and criticism of its inadequate replacement is a long-running farce; our esteemed leaders, whether they be in the police, Parliament or the council seem mired in controversy.

Let's hope our bright new university campus will turn out some brainy graduates to replace them and put all of this right.

It's just a shame the Post won't be around to report it.

The hope that lives amidst oppression

Politics student and former Northampton School for Boys pupil Jed Scoles visited Palestine with the Fabian Society. This is what he saw...

Following a trip to Israel last year at the invitation of the Israeli embassy, the youth wing of The Fabian Society decided in the summer to embark on a trip to Palestine to assess and write about the current political, and diplomatic situation in The West Bank - I was lucky enough to be invited on this trip which took place in November.

The reality of one of the longest conflicts of the modern world was apparent the moment I entered the Middle East. Numerous security checks and extensive questioning just to obtain a visa at the Israeli border was just a taste of what was to come. On our first day we took a tour of the city of Jerusalem with Non-Government organisation the Israeli Committee against house demolitions which detailed the daily destruction of Palestinian homes at the hand of the Israeli government.

We also visited in the same day the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) and spoke to MK Tamar Zandberg from the Israeli Meretz party about the state of affairs with Israeli/Palestinian politics - She was often frank and open about how the Palestinian people are effectively living under a system of apartheid as well as the state apathy towards the conflict from Israeli politicians.

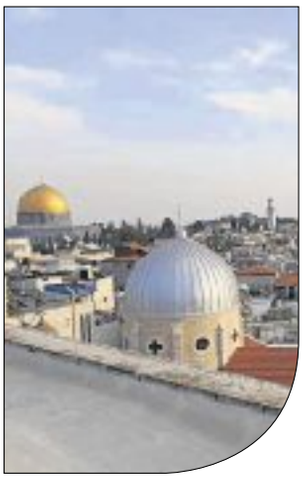
Tuesday was to be our only day in Israel, the rest of the trip we would spend our time in the West Bank. We stayed in the city of Ramallah which was the home of the Palestinian Authority. The capital of Palestine, Jerusalem, was annexed by Israel in 1967. Ramallah is a thriving, bustling city which receives a huge amount of foreign aid from the European Union, The USA and The Arab League. We were often hosted by Fatah the dominant political party in the West Bank meeting officials and youth members of the party.

The predominant feeling we got when meeting and speaking to any of the Palestinian people was of hope, despite the oppression they were facing, of a two state solution in which the Palestinian and Israeli people can peacefully coexist side by side. The most striking meeting of the week for me was when we travelled to the village of Nabih Saleh to meet "Palestine's Youngest Journalist" 11-year-old Janna Ayyad who boasts over 225,000 followers on her Facebook page which documents the weekly protests and subsequent tear gassing and crackdown from the Israeli Defence Force.

For someone of such a young age exposed to the horror of conflict and oppression she spoke not only eloquently but with humility and grace - preaching not hate and violence but love and kinship for the Israeli state which restricts her village's water supply to only seven hours a week. I came away from the trip with mixed emotions, not only did I feel anger and disgust at the way an entire nation of people were treated but I also felt hope and determination for a peaceful resolution for the conflict and that one day the nation of Palestine can fulfil its dream of statehood.

More can be read about the Fabian Society at fabians.org.uk

And Travel 2 Palestine at travel2palestine.org



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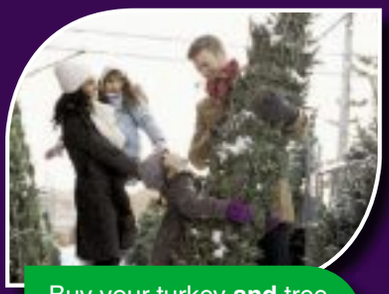

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Rogue One: A Star Wars Story (12A)	6-12 Jan
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Feast your eyes on our best chefs

HOT STUFF: Shane Clarke receives the best chef trophy (above) and Booker's Peter Saunders watches Sebastian McClean in action (below)

Two of the county's finest culinary talents will soon be ironing their whites and polishing their knives to hotfoot it to some of the country's best restaurants after winning the top chefs' prizes in the Carlsberg UK Northamptonshire Food and Drink Awards 2016/17.

24 year old Sebastian McLean from Rushton Hall at Rushton will enjoy a two-day trip to London to experience the heat of the kitchens at two of the city's most exciting eateries, Lyles and Dabbous, having being named 'Booker Young Chef of the Year' and thanks to a prize provided by the category sponsor Booker Wholesale, the UK's leading food & drink wholesaler.

Lyles opened in 2014 and was immediately voted the 'One to Watch' at the 2014 Restaurant Magazine Awards, achieving a Michelin star the following year, while Dabbous, which opened two years earlier, was named 'a game-changer' by none other than Fay Maschler, restaurant critic of London's Evening Standard and saw extra staff being brought in to man the phones, such was the flurry of booking enquiries.

Meanwhile Shane Clarke, who is head chef at 185 Watling Street in Towcester, was awarded the title of 'Chef of the Year' (co-sponsored by TMI Foods and Cordant People) and will therefore follow in the footsteps of the two previous winners by spending the day with John Williams MBE, Executive Chef at The Ritz.

Sebastian, who impressed the judges with his calmness under pressure as he prepared his main course of Asian-style tofu followed by chocolate mousse at the cook-off final back in September, was thrilled to receive his trophy from none other than Michel Roux OBE (Snr) at the prestigious Awards Dinner earlier this month and is equally excited to be taking up his prize; "I couldn't believe it when my name was announced and of course it was an honour to meet Michel and to celebrate my success with him!" explained Sebastian.

"I still get a buzz when I think about that amazing night and am really looking forward to heading down to London and picking up some more great culinary skills and advice, which I'm sure will be invaluable as my career progresses" he added.

Those are sentiments echoed by Shane, who similarly won over the judges with his two-course offering of mushroom-stuffed poussin and strawberry and elderflower trifle to beat the five other finalists in the Ready Steady Cook-style cook-off in August.

"I won a similar competition in Milton Keynes a few years ago, so when I moved to 185 in Towcester for its opening just over a year ago, I was really pleased to think that I could enter this competition" revealed Shane.

"My dad was a chef so I guess it runs in the blood and certainly, what with not only winning the title, but also the trip to work alongside the team at The Ritz for the day, he couldn't be prouder of what I've achieved so far!" he added.

With the ninth year of the competition already in the planning stage for 2017, Awards' Director Rachel Mallows is already encouraging others to consider getting involved; "We are most grateful to Booker Wholesale and to John and his team at The Ritz for providing such wonderful prizes for these two amazing chefs and we know that those will be experiences that will live long in their memories" explained Rachel.

"As well as the increase in publicity which success in the competition can bring, we also hope to secure similar opportunities for next year's winners so would heartily recommended that the county's chefs make sure they don't miss out when we launch the competition in the spring!" she enthused.

To watch Sebastian and Shane in action at their respective cook-offs or to see the results of all the categories in this year's competition, please visit the Awards' website www.northamptonshire-foodanddrink.co.uk

Meanwhile if you would like to get involved in the 2017/18 Awards, either as an entrant or a sponsor, please contact Rachel at The Mallows Company on 01933 664437 or email rachel@themallowscompany.com You can also follow the Awards on twitter @foodawardsHQ or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/foodawards

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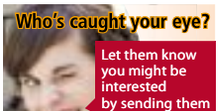
KAREN, 47, an attractive blue-eyed redhead, curvy size 16, likes films, football, pubs, reading, seeking like-minded male for nights in/out, hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 425057**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3000 Box 419673**

JULIE attractive 35yr old female with a great body, looking for no strings attached evening meets. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 425037**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JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3008 Box: 409715**

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424675**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3016 Box: 413399**

MARY, passionate honest slim blue-eyed blonde, 39yrs, likes nights in/out, looking for affectionate male, any age to spend adult fun times. Interested? call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 425009**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3020 Box 421375**

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424781**

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! **Tel: 0906 515 3024 Box 423035**

FIONA 32yr old Irish nurse seeks sincere honest professional guy who would enjoy the company of smart, sophisticated feminine, tactile lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424867**

NAUGHTY curvy 46yr old lady, outgoing and bubbly with a naughty side and lots of banter, WLTM chap 30+. If you are married even better. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3012 Box 424543**

TARA petite pretty slim 36yr old female seeks caring male to care for, love, single dad welcome, age/looks unimportant. Kind heart essential. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424843**

SARAH, 39yrs, married, seeking chap for no strings intimate times. Special friendship, mutual respect. Give me a call. **Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box 408291**

EMMA 45yr old divorced female with no ties, a GSOH, pretty, slim and basically the whole package, looking for genuine male man enough to take a real woman on. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424823**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3004 Box 422365**

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424491**

SARAH, mature feminine lady, kind caring but still has a sensual side, hoping to meet like minded, confident, non smoking gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424777**

CORRINE, genuine advertiser seeking adult fun, no time wasters pls. I will respond to all msgs. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4035196**

JAN, 45, employed green eyed pretty brunette, busty size 16, likes sunset walks, whisky, music, animals, WLTM male, any age/nationality with similar likes for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424793**

PHILIPPA, feminine open minded lady seeking adult fun, genuine responses only pls, no timewasters. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4030610**

MARIE 30yrs, slim, blue eyed female, new to the area looking for lots of fun and excitement, come on give me a call, lets get it on. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424765**

OCTAVIA, black seductress, 53yrs, waiting to meet you. Pls text me today. **Text Only. Mailbox: 4090520**

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DEBS 38yrs, short blonde fit size 12 who enjoys the finer things in life, looking for fun times without any complications. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424743**

CAROL, mid 50s lady, young at heart, attractive and sexy (so I'm told)! Give me a call if you are a gent with GSOH. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424783**

CALL or text me, I'm Claire, single, 41yrs loves life to the full, hoping you will contact me if you want a genuine fun time. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424779**

MARY, professional mature lady, loves life, very sociable and fun, seeks gent for good conversation and happy times. All calls and texts answered. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424775**

JEAN, mature lady, genuine with many hobbies, slim, blonde and attractive. WLTM interesting gent with GSOH, must be cheerful, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424675**

SANDRA, smart, sophisticated lady young looking 60s, genuine and kind seeks gent with GSOH, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424671**

LINDA, 48, young looking attractive size 12, warm hearted, honest, caring, easygoing female looking for fun to be with male for friendship and hopefully a lot more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424629**

LISA, 37yrs old, very attractive, sporty blonde blue eyed outgoing female looking for genuine male to spend time with, get to know and take it from there, no pressure. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424587**

JULIE, 53yrs, tall slim dark haired lady, sociable and fun loving. New to the area so WLTM men friends for fun, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424497**

BARBARA, 36, slim blonde, likes music, sport, the outdoors, quiet nights in etc, WLTM kind honest gent to share interests and get to know me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424549**

SUE, attractive genuine lady, own home, loves to spoil a man, give me a call or text. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424673**

ANGELA, 48yrs, seeks male companion for nights out, dining, maybe more. ACA or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424495**

HELEN, mid 50s naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424493**

YOUNG 22yr professional, outgoing, attractive blonde looking for a serious guy for country walks and maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 5531676**

LYN, 39yrs, dark hair and blue eyes, WLTM action man of any age for fun and games. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 423899**

JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots of fun seeks like-minded gent for nights in, days out and much much more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424491**

male seeking

DAVID, 70s, n/s, medium height/build, young at heart, kind and caring, seeks lady with time to share life's pleasures. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 425033**

MALE 62 med build n/s GSOH kind caring many interests seeking female to spend good times and hopefully LTR. **Text only. Mailbox: 4631948**

SUBMISSIVE mature male seeks strong dominant lady for no holds barred fun. No strings attached. **Text only. Mailbox: 5640550**

NEIL, entrepreneur, lived abroad most of my life, back in England now and looking for a lovely lady, 48 years upwards, to spend some time with. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 422331**

YOUNG 70 widower, fit, lonely, 5ft 11ins, 11st, likes drives, walks, DIY, meals out, gardening, smoker, looking for lady to spend life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424687**

59YR old male, likes country walks, pub lunches, seeks lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424685**

WIDOWER, 73, GSOH, n/s, enjoys walking, restaurants and good company, hate being lonely, nobody to talk to, looking for a companion to share my life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 423961**

MALE 50 seeks mature, home loving lady, 60 plus who enjoys cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424683**

MARTIN trustworthy, warm hearted, loving, reliable male, 45, 6ft, medium build, young at heart, GSOH, seeks female, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424681**

MARK 48, slim, fit, GSOH, looking for loyal partner for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424679**

CARING 55yr old male, widower, 6ft 3ins, WLTM lady, 40-55 for fun and laughter, maybe happy ever after. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 424677**

COMPLAISANT early 60s, attractive gent, GSOH. seeks attractive Cambs lady for special times, single fun! **Text only Mailbox: 5572915**

ROMANTIC Australian entrepreneur 49, seeks quality lady for romance and theatre. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 409191**

66YR old male, 6ft, widower, N/S, clean shaven, smart, likes social outings, holidays, music, dancing, seeks well dressed female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 394741**

MALE 60's, 6ft, N/S, nice looking, likes music, dancing, travel, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 395423**

60'S gent widower, N/S, likes countryside, keeping fit, WLTM nice well dressed lady to take out on weekends/eves to see a show or something. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 404581**

WHITE curvy lady any age required by handsome black professional male, for discreet casual adult fun. No time wasters pls. **Text only Mailbox: 5066605**

JOANNE can you please call, you left a message on 21st August but no phone number. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 395903**

40YR old easy going guy, athletic and loves life is looking for some fun with a like-minded girl. **Text only Mailbox: 5545609**

STEVE seeks Connie from Daventry, lost your number. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 350411**

CHRISTIAN male, 50, likes church, music, travel, meals out, seeks Christian female, 40-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 370604**

57YR old male, divorced, seeks mature female, 57-65 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 373858**

STEVE 58, seeks female, 60 plus for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 4432 Box No: 379587**

MALE 44, WLTM lady/single mum for friendship, maybe more. **Text only Mailbox: 5535244**

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gay seeking

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BI male seeking male for fun times and friendship. **Text only. Mailbox: 4830151**

SIMON, 29yrs, gay curious, seeking older gent for new experiences, must be discreet as I live at home. **Text Only: Mailbox: 4196422**

ATTRACTIVE full figure bi lady 57 seeking similar female for 50 shades of fun! **Text only to Mailbox No: 4636475**

GAY feminine female, blue eyes, GSOH, WLTM caring fem female for friendship or LTR. No children. **Text only Mailbox: 5448522**

Friends

MELANIE 47 seeks straight female friends for nights out, pubs, clubs, concerts, etc. **Text only mailbox no: 5345662**

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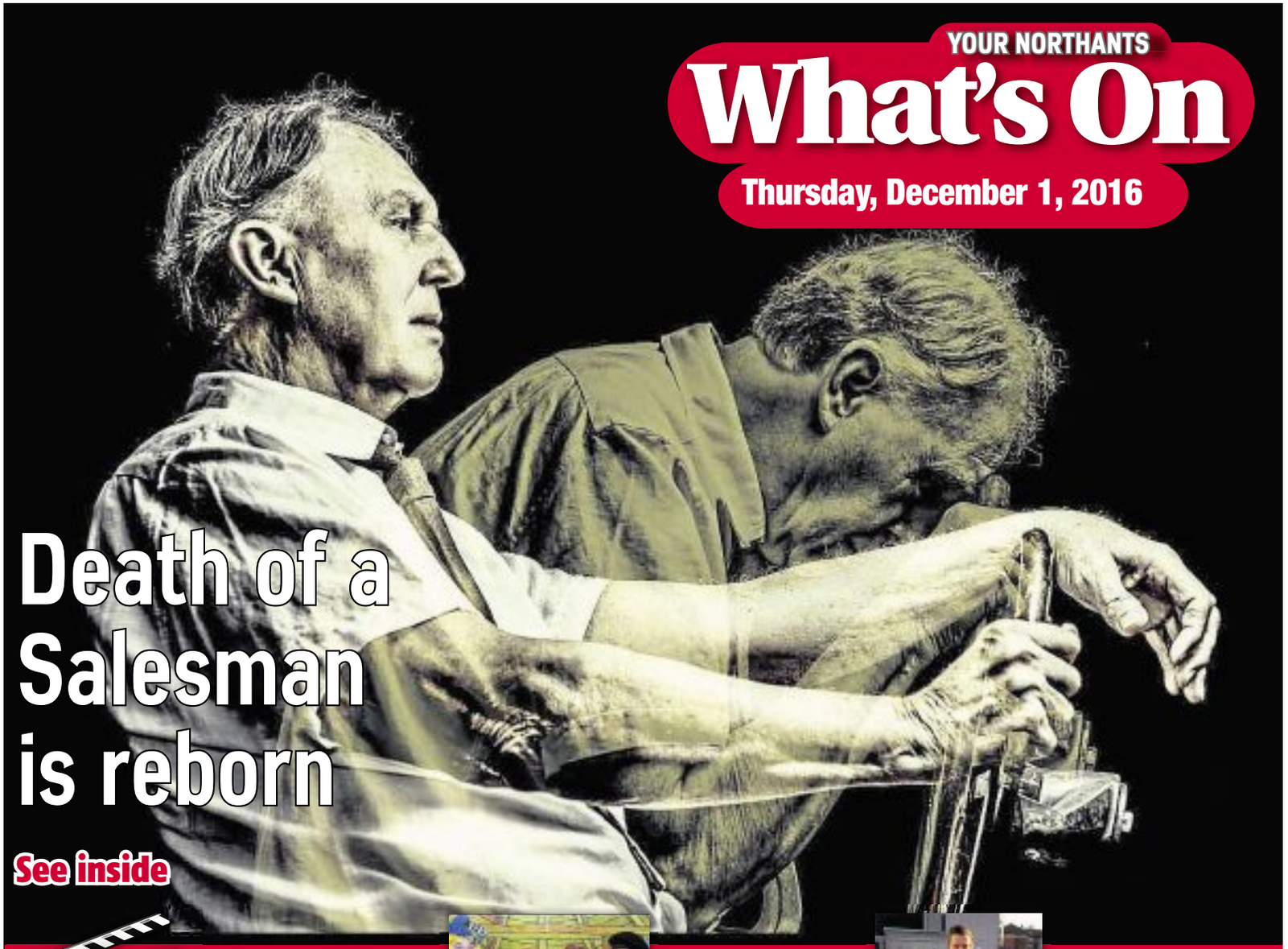
YOUR NORTHANTS

What's On

Thursday, December 1, 2016



Death of a Salesman is reborn

See inside

See this week's film listings . . .

It's panto time, oh yes it is!

Artist Olive's naked ambition

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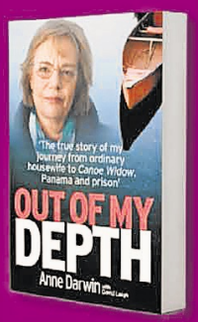
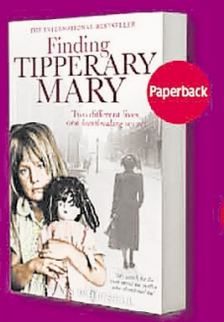
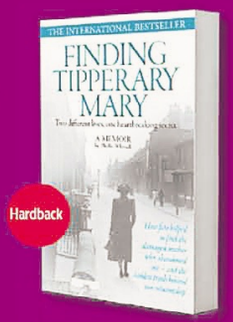


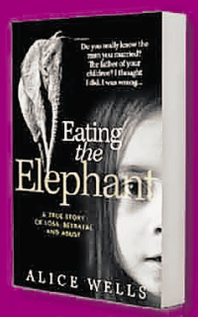
In her own words, the real story behind the Canoe Widow Fraud. Includes Anne's prison diary



The true story of a daughter's search for her past and the desperate mother who gave her up

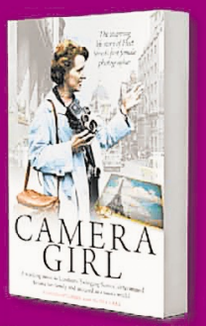


The international and Sunday Times bestseller, also available in hardback



How do you grasp a truth so terrible it crushes you... and survive?

The gripping life story of Brian Reader, Britain's most prolific 'Master' burglar



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WHAT'SONROUND-UP

Touring production to take on Arthur Miller

BY LAWRENCE JOHN
lawrence.john@hpnorthants.co.uk

Ahead of announcing its Made in Northampton 2017 season, Royal & Derngate, has revealed, alongside partner venues, a major touring revival of Arthur Miller's Death of a Salesman.

Starring Tim Pigott-Smith and directed by Abigail Graham, the production will run in Northampton from April 8 to 29. It will then head out on tour - travelling to Cambridge, Bath, Malvern, Exeter, Canterbury, Portsmouth, Edinburgh and Truro.

Tickets go on sale soon.

Hood's out the woods and hitting the road

Next week, Looking Glass Theatre embark on their tenth traditional family pantomime which will be touring to more than 50 Northamptonshire venues, including villages and schools, between today and January 9.

This year it is Robin Hood and Babes in the Wood.

Tickets are £10 (adults), £8 (children/students/senior citizens).

For details on the locations, visit: lookingglasstheatre.co.uk or call 01604 472029.

County's arts cinema listings this week

BY NICHOLAS BIEBER
nicholas.bieber@hpnorthants.co.uk

Here are the listings for Northamptonshire arts cinemas this week:

Errol Flynn Filmhouse
■ A Street Cat Named Bob
Today
■ One More Time with Feeling
Today
■ The Girl on the Train *(pictured)*
A divorcee becomes entangled in a missing persons investigation that promises to send shockwaves throughout her life.
Tomorrow and Saturday
■ Nocturnal Animals
Tomorrow and Tuesday
■ Bridget Jones's Baby
Saturday and Tuesday
■ Purple Rain
Sunday
■ American Honey
Sunday and Wednesday
■ I, Daniel Blake
Monday and Wednesday
■ Indignation
Monday and Wednesday
To book tickets call the box office on 01604 624811.

Lings Forum
■ The Light Between the Oceans
Today
■ Doctor Strange
Tomorrow-Monday
■ Keeping Up With The Joneses
Tomorrow, Saturday, Monday and Tuesday
■ After Love
Wednesday
To book tickets call 01604 837300.

WHAT'SONROUND-UP

ARTS LAB TAKEOVER PAGE:

Artist will spend 12 months nude

Olive Sanderson who is a student at the University of Northampton has announced that they will wear nothing for an entire year.

They have previously worn a suit for a year but this is the biggest commitment they will undertake in the name of Art.

They say the biggest challenge will be 'keeping warm during winter which they've said they'll survive by staying inside, round the fire'.

"I won't need to go clothes shopping and my clothes won't need washing or patching up like the curtain suit did, so I'll have a lot of free time.'

One of NN Contemporary Art's Youth Art Collective leaders said: "This is probably the most daring of their pieces, their previous works were a lot less illegal than what they are planning on doing now, they've been supported by this gallery before but I'm not sure how we can help them with this piece."

A new contemporary art has been founded

BY OLIVE SANDERSON

Yep that's right every single person. But for those visiting don't expect just to see paintings instead of paving slabs and stained glass in place of windscreens.

The traditional arts aren't the only type being practiced.

Neo-new-modern-contemporary art has also been founded this week, alongside at least 1954 new art movements.

Even for those unaware in the shift in normality their every motion has become a performance, every thought a masterpiece in waiting.

At the start of the week it was also seen that university students were on the new waterside campus causing trouble.

Using mounds of dirt as desks they drew words and pictures into the table tops, then left them there as free standing sculptures.

They have been slowly spiralling outward ever since creating classrooms anywhere they can settle.

Now on the fourth day of Art Week Northamptonshire residents have taken up residence in the concept art for old bus station grounds.

Many have moved into the imagined apartments and regularly eat and relax in the envisaged restaurants.

A local bus driver said the route she now takes is 'no longer determined by a regulated system of stops in predetermined places' but 'by collaborating with customers we discover new places, stories and personal histories'.

Taxi drivers have noticed the change, instead of taking people from A to B they found their journey started going via; purple, apple, X and Juicy Fruit.

All empty shops have been broken into, rebuilt and repurposed, daily performances and shows go on there, everynight bands are playing late and the radio station has daily visitors.

Things to look out for as events unfold:

- Takeovers of local papers
- New words, colours, human expression and candyfloss flavours
- Piles of pedestrian performers pushing past people playing as one

A brighter future is on the horizon

BY TM JORDAN

The Lab for many years enjoyed a reputation as the place for some of the newest or most interesting bands and events to see. But recent years had seen its reputation wane somewhat.

But at their recent annual general meeting, it seemed as though things were turning for the better.

Chaired by Kirsty Wilkins, the news seemed to be endlessly positive, with things looking brighter on the horizon.

This comes after success of a more stable presence and product in the bar, an improved sound system and a reputation that the club was slowly but deservedly rebuilding. Despite an unsuccessful bid earlier that day at Northampton Soup, the Lab spoke of exciting plans coming over the next year. After success with rebuilding the garden, Wilkins described plans to renovate the rooms upstairs for new local activities to further engage in one of the more international areas of Northampton.

This comes as welcome news to the Northampton Arts Lab, who regularly meets in the Lab's upstairs rooms.

Be sure to check out the website or Facebook page for all the latest news and gig information. Try the Sunday roasts too – they're great.

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WHAT'SONROUND-UP

New co-operative of local authors

BY MORGEN BAILEY

A new co-operative, Northants Authors, has been formed to promote talent across the county and encourage others with an interest in creative writing to learn more about the craft.

Chaired by Hardingstone resident, Joy Burnett, and co-founded by Arts Lab member Morgen Bailey, the group includes novelists, short story writers, children's authors, auto/biographers, poets, and non-fiction writers, with works available as paperbacks and electronic versions. The books' settings include Wales, West Africa, Ireland, a Mediterranean cruise ship, Queen Elizabeth I's London, and our very own Northampton and the surrounding area.

Despite the prevalence of eBooks, the members often meet readers who say they prefer to hold a physical book and love the fact that they can get them signed by the authors. Some of the members have been writing for several decades, others are relatively new, but they all admit to being just as thrilled as their customers when they are asked for their signatures, especially at this time of year when they can dedicate their books as Christmas presents.

WRITE ON: Northamptonshire Authors

As the saying goes, 'Everyone has a book inside them' and as Morgen tells us, "We have all found that we can't stop at one. While some are currently working on their second book, others already have a comprehensive portfolio, and as well as being therapeutic, we love sharing ideas and solving our writer's block (yes, it does exist!)." The group includes several members of Northampton Writers' Group and Northampton Literature Group so there is always help at hand.

The group actively welcomes new members and the only stipulation is that you live in Northamptonshire and have at least one physical title for sale. The co-operative attends craft fairs, author talks, and library events, and can be booked via their website: www.northantsauthors.com, where you can also learn more about the authors living within our county.

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December 1, 2016

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Phone use in cars on the rise

By: Stewart Smith

WE'VE all seen the idiots clutching mobiles to their ears while driving and the problem is getting worse according to the latest safety survey by the Institute of Advanced Motorists.

It says that more than 86 per cent of UK motorists think distraction caused by mobile phones has increased in the past three years and believe the dangers of mobile phones and technology are bigger threats than any other factor on the roads.

The results of the survey, which asked about the potential problems faced by motorists now compared to three years ago identified worsening congestion as the second biggest problem according to 81 per cent 2,000 drivers questioned in the IAM RoadSmart report.

Also revealed was the fact that nearly three quarters believed aggressive driving had worsened over the same period and more than 60 per cent reporting the same for drug-driving.

IAM RoadSmart's Safety Culture Survey was produced for the first time last year. It looks at UK motorists' safety attitudes and behaviour and has just been updated for 2016.

Some 94 per cent of those questioned saw drivers checking or updating social media as a threat to their personal safety, while 93 per cent said that was the case for drivers text messaging or e-mailing, and for 91 per cent it was the case for drivers talking on mobile phones. This was higher than the perceived threat from drink and drug driving.

Not surprisingly, those surveyed thought the problems were caused by others, and not them with 91 per cent saying they had never used the internet whilst driving in the past 30 days, 88 per cent had not sent a text or email whilst driving, 82 per cent had not read a text message or email whilst driving and 79 per cent had not talked on a mobile phone.

There was also huge approval for stricter measures to prevent and reduce drivers using mobile technology in cars.

Sarah Sillars, IAM RoadSmart chief executive officer, said: "The worries and concerns of Britain's 32 million drivers should be listened to. Whilst we can all take more responsibility for our actions it is clear that distraction and congestion are the two biggest bug bears for drivers today.

"New road building and smart motorways will help with congestion but our survey has shown that UK motorists have real concerns about the way mobile phone technology could be a threat to their safety. More than 90 per cent say checking social media, texting and talking on mobile phones whilst driving scares them – these are figures that cannot be ignored."

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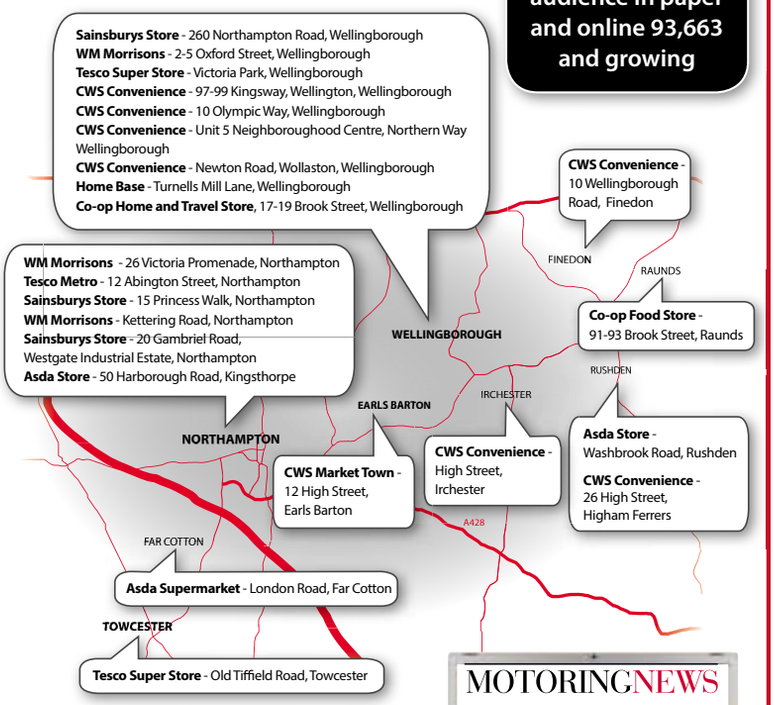

NORTHANTS Herald & Post MOTORINGNEWS

Printed in paper every week and online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
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Citroen C4 Cactus Flair PureTech 110

By: Mike Torpey

PEARL white chocolate may sound as much like a new line of ice cream by Ben & Jerry's as the colour of a car from Citroen.

Appetising too – just picture yourself plunging a spoon into those swirls of gooey brown liquid spiralling their way to the top of the tub.

In the case of the C4 Cactus, minus the prickles, the same colour scheme is a bit more about the packaging than the contents.

In fact it's just about the only thing I don't really like about the Cactus and to be fair, criticism only applies to the cabin.

The car's exterior - pearl white with a chocolate Airbump - looks on the attractive side of okay, while the interior appears more like a throwback to an Eastern bloc model from the 1970s.

If you're curious about the Airbump, well it's an oblong strip across the sides of the car and the bumpers, basically to protect the Cactus from knocks and scrapes.

It's made from a thermoplastic polyurethane skin called TPU containing air bubbles to absorb any impacts and is available in colours like black, grey, Dune and chocolate, which can be matched with the Citroen's 10 body colours.

Whether it makes the C4 more attractive is down to personal taste, but it's certainly different and one of several features that make the Cactus such a stand-out version of the compact hatchback.

Though sharing the same wheelbase as the standard C4, the Cactus is actually 200kg lighter and is a product of the French brand's New World New Ideas philosophy.

The upshot is more space for the driver and passengers, in a relaxing, clutter-free cabin with a low dashboard and digital screen.

There's also 'Airbag In Roof' technology whereby the passenger airbag is transferred to the roof and deployed over the windscreen.

As for comfort, the wide front seats are designed in the style of a sofa while rear legroom is similar to that of the C4.

Other touches include luggage style door handles with leather straps, a storage compartment on top of the dashboard and an optional (£425) large panoramic sunroof.

And driving aids include useful stuff like Smart Wash - washer nozzles are built into the tips of the wipers and release just a small amount of fluid - Park Assist, a reversing camera, Hill Start Assist and cornering lights.

Power comes via PureTech petrol and BlueHDi diesel engines with Stop & Start, the tested 1.2-litre petrol version offering a fair blend of performance and economy.

The Cactus isn't the most exhilarating car to drive, but a pleasant one nonetheless – with positive feedback from the steering, fair ride quality given its light weight and satisfactory cornering.

Its CO2 emissions are low at 107g/km and in real-world conditions you should be able to eke an average 53 miles per gallon – not too far short of the official 60.1 – out of the car in everyday driving.

What's certain is that the Cactus is a car in a niche of its own, a real eye-catcher that stands out from the crowd.

FAST FACTS

Citroen C4 Cactus Flair PureTech 110

Price: £18,090

Mechanical: 110bhp, 1,199cc, 3cyl petrol engine driving front wheels via 5-speed manual gearbox

Max speed: 117mph

0-62mph: 9.3 seconds

Combined mpg: 60.1

Insurance group: 16

CO2 emissions: 107g/km

BiK rating: 18%

Warranty: 3yrs/60,000 miles

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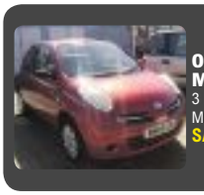

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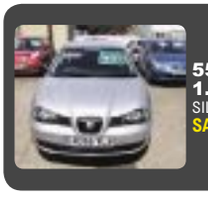

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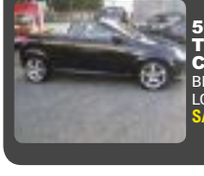

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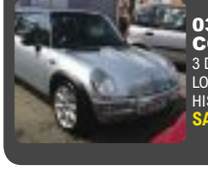

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LONDON MOTOR SHOW RETURNS FOR 2017 BY: STEWART SMITH

THE resurrected London Motor Show has been hailed a great success and is now set to return to Battersea Park in 2017

Next year's event, from May 4 to 7, is set to be even bigger and better with more cars, more celebrities and more fun family entertainment.

At the 2017 show, there will be over 150 brand new cars from major manufacturers and dealerships, including Tesla, Aston Martin, Fiat, Hyundai, Nissan and Zenos.

Visitors will have the chance to get up close and personal with these recently launched cars. In addition, a selection of iconic historic vehicles will also be on display, showcasing the heritage of some of the world's best-loved marques.

Showgoers will also get the chance to learn about the latest technology through exhibits from companies showcasing developments related to safety, electric vehicles, fuel alternatives and even driverless cars.

The London Motor Show has a range of exciting features and activities suitable for all ages. From virtual reality racing and the chance to meet motoring legends, to immersive simulator driving experiences, there is something for everyone.

And it doesn't end when the show closes. The evenings will see private previews and dinners taking place, supporting motoring charities including the Sean Edwards Foundation, which promotes motorsports safety, and RoadSafe.

Alec Mumford, chairman of The London Motor Show, said: "The inaugural show exceeded our expectations. With sell-out crowds over the weekend, close to 100 test drives arranged and numerous key models sold, it was a success for both ourselves as organisers and our exhibitors."

The show held in May 2016 attracted more than 25,000 visitors, with tickets sold out on Saturday and Sunday and information from the show reached a national and international audience.

PEUGEOT PRICES NEW 3008

BY: STEWART SMITH

THE all-new Peugeot 3008 SUV will cost from £21,795 when it goes on sale next month ahead of deliveries in the New Year.

First models will be in showrooms from January 28 and the 17 model line up will top out from £32,995 for high specification GT versions.

The UK range starts with a "level 2" specification vehicle so that every model will feature the latest Peugeot i-Cockpit which includes a digital instrument panel, a compact steering whee and an eight-inch touch-screen.

Compared to the outgoing model the newcomer offers more equipment at entry level and is also significantly larger.

The range starts with the Active specification model that includes automatic emergency braking systems, adaptive driver and front passenger airbags, driver and front passenger side, front and rear curtain airbags, dynamic stability control and electronic anti-skid system, driver attention alert system, Isofix child seat fittings in the front passenger and outer rear seats, programmable cruise control and speed limiter.

As a consequence the new 3008 has a 5-star EuroNCAP safety awardd and insurance ratings from 11E.

There is a choice of four trim levels – Active, Allure, GT Line and the top-of-the-range GT - and a variety of petrol and diesel engines with CO2 emissions from 103g/km.

Petrol engine outputs are 130bhp and 165bhp with CO2 emissions of 117 to 129g/km, with the 1.2-litre PureTech three-cylinder turbo engine and the 1.6 THP.

The PureTech 130 is available in six-speed manual or EAT6 automatic transmission while the 165bhp is mated to the six-speed EAT6 automatic and available only in GT Line trim priced from £27,895.

Four diesel engines with Peugeot's BlueHDi technology will be offered with emissions between 103 and 124g/km and power outputs of 100, 120, 150 and 180bhp. Diesel prices start from £22,845 and top out with the 180bhp version in the GT.

RENAULT TWINGO GT READY TO ROLL BY: STEWART SMITH

RENAULT has announced pricing and UK specification for the new Twingo GT, the sporty version of the little French motor that was unveiled at this year's Goodwood Festival of Speed.

At the same time a revised version of the Dynamique S model also goes on sale from the start of December.

Developed by Renault Sport, the GT, which costs £13,755, comes with a rear-engine layout which maximises interior space and aids manouvering as the turning arc of the front wheels is not restricted by the engine.

Under the bonnet of the GT is an 898cc Renault TCe engine – the most powerful in the Twingo range – and Renault Sport's engine designers tuned it to produce 110bhp and 170Nm of torque with a modified turbocharger, uprated fuel pump, revised engine mapping and a specially-designed, freer-flowing twin silencer exhaust which have contributed to the significant increase in power and torque.

As far as performance goes, the GT can hit cover 0-62mph in just 9.6 seconds and pick-up is amongst the best in class with 50-75mph taking less than nine seconds.

Renault Sport has also tuned the Twingo GT's chassis with stiffer shock absorbers, a larger diameter anti-roll bar and a ride height that is 20mm lower than the normal Twingo.

Introduced alongside the GT is the new Twingo Dynamique S which replaces the previous version and has exterior and interior improvements. It is priced from £12,205.

As with the GT, the Dynamique S is available with new Renault i.d blaze orange metallic paint as well as a lunar grey, diamond black or crystal white body finish. A Sport decal and 16-inch Sport diamond-cut alloys complete the exterior.

Inside, the Dynamique S has features including aluminium pedals, sport part-leather upholstery, grey interior touch pack, sport gear lever knob and orange interior personalisation.

Dynamique S customers can also specify the GT's body kit, extra tinted rear windows, automatic lights and front wipers, fog lights with cornering function and rear parking sensors amongst the available options.

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59 Citroen C2 1.1 VT, In Red, MOT March 2017, 61,439 Miles, C/L P/S E/F/W Ideal First car, Low Insurance Group 2 Excellent car.....SALE PRICE £2195

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07 Ford Focus C-Max Zetec TDCI, 1600cc, In Grey, 12 Months MOT,102,745 miles, Documented cambelt Change October 2014, Excellent car .....SALE PRICE £1995

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05 Ford Focus Ghia, 1600cc, In Blue, 80,184 miles, MOT May 2017, Some Service History & Receipts, 2 Owners, C/L P/S E/W E/M A/Con A/W Cruise Control, Drives Superb, Very clean car throughout Must be seen to be appreciated.....SALE PRICE £1595

05 Ford Focus C-Max Zetec, 1600cc, 94,118 miles, In tonic Blue, MOT March 2017, Last Service @ 91,911 miles, Documented Cambelt Change .....SALE PRICE £1695

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54 Peugeot 206cc Allure Coupe, 1600cc, In Blue, MOT September 2017, C/L P/S E/Roof E/W A/C Leather Seats (black), Excellent Car £1095

54 Ford Fiesta Zetec 16v 1400cc, In Silver, 94,460 miles, MOT March 2017, Service History x 9 stamps, Some Receipts, Must be seen to be appreciated £1395

04 Jaguar X-Type 2.1 V6, In Blue, MOT July 2017, Leather Interior (Cream) Some Service History, Usual Jaguar refinements, Drives Superb .....SALE PRICE £1395

51 Honda CR-V Vtec Se 2.0, In Gold, MOT June 2017, P/S C/L E/W E/M A/C E/roof, Tow Bar, Roof Rack Excellent Throughout .....SALE PRICE £1495

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55 Renault Grande Scenic D-Mique VVT 16v, 1998cc, In Grey, 12 Months MOT, Some Service History, Very clean Car £1195

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2010 SUZUKI ALTO FZ4 1.1 ..... **£2,795**

04 KIA SEDONA SE TURBO DIESEL (AUTOMATIC) PEOPLE CARRIER **£1,495**

01 JAGUAR S TYPE 3.0 V6 SE (AUTOMATIC) **£1,495**

04 PEUGEOT 307 (DIESEL) **£1,295**

08 HYUNDAI i10 (AUTOMATIC) **£3,995**

AVAILABLE STOCK

62 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 DIG-T in white, full leather interior with factory fitted sat nav, alloy wheels, fsh, ONLY 61,000 MILES, ABSOLUTE BARGAIN **£7,995**

07 MERCEDES BENZ ML 280 CDI in silver with black leather interior, Mercedes service history,factory fitted sat nav, very useful 4 x 4 ..... SOLD **£7,495**

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12 NISSAN MICRA 1.2 5 DOOR in white, ONLY 17,000 MILES.....YES! ONLY 17,000 MILES FROM NEW, a/c, cd, alloys, economical motoring for just **£4,795**

04 MAZDA MX 5 EUPHONIC CONVERTIBLE complete with hard top in silver, only 54k miles with fully documented service history **£3,995**

08 HYUNDAI I10 (AUTOMATIC) in metallic blue, 5 door, only 31,000 miles, Hyundai plus one lady owner from new, full service history, just had MOT and service, nice small auto for just **£3,995**

07 MAZDA MX 5 CONVERTIBLE in silver with below average mileage, full service history, Mazda plus one lady owner from new **£3,995**

10 HYUNDAI 120 1.4 COMFORT 5 dr in black, only 46k miles, full Hyundai service history, only £30/year road tax.....FOR ONLY **£3,795**

07 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 CLUB in metallic silver, ONLY 5,000 MILES FROM NEW.....YES FROM NEW....only one owner ..... SOLD **£3,795**

08 FORD FIESTA 1.25 STYLE CLIMATE in purple, ONLY 43,000 MILES with fully documented service history, heated screens, a/c, only one previous owner, ABSOLUTELY STUNNING, ... **£2,995**

10 SUZUKI ALTO (New Shape) FZ4 1.1, top of the range model, alloy wheels, air con, road tax only £20/year, full service history, very economical small hatch back for only **£2,795**

04 TOYOTA AVENSIS T4 HATCHBACK 2.0L (DIESEL) in metallic blue with only 42,000 miles, FSH inc cambelt change, one previous owner, a real pleasure to drive **£2,495**

06 VAUXHALL CORSA 14 SXI + 5 dr in black, locally owned since 2009, full service history including cambelt change, ABSOUTELY IMMACULATE **£1,995**

04 SKODA FABIA 1.2 ESTATE in metallic silver, only 21k miles....YES ONLY 21K MILES FROM NEW..... you will not find a better one with this mileage ..... SOLD **£1,995**

04 KIA SEDONA SE TURBO DIESEL (AUTOMATIC) 7 seater finished in metallic blue with full leather interior, drop down tv/dvd player, must be seen, very rare, full 12 month MOT test **£1,495**

04 (54) RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.5 DCi (DIESEL) finished in metallic silver, excellent throughout with only 68,000 miles.....MUST BE SEEN **£1,295**

02 NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 5 DOOR HATCH finished in silver, ONLY 48,000 MILES, must be seen **£1,295**

01 JAGUAR S TYPE 3.0 V6 SE (AUTOMATIC) finished in stunning blue with cream leather, all usual SE extras. ONLY 98,000 MILES with service history, a stunning example for only **£1,495**

04 PEUGEOT 307 HDI (DIESEL) 3 DOOR finished in metallic blue, exceptional throughout, drives like new **£1,295**

02 PEUGEOT 206 CC (HARD TOP) CONVERTIBLE, finished in stunning black with full leather interior in red/black, only 64k miles, a/c.....A STUNNING CAR **£995**

COMMERCIAL

52 SUZUKI SUPER CARRY with only 72,000 miles, service history, new MOT, very useful small van **£2,295**

03 SEAT INCA SDi DIESEL (CADDY) VAN, low recorded miles with only one previous owner from new... VERY USEFUL VAN FOR ONLY **£1,295**

04 RENAULT KANGO DIESEL HI TOP VAN, only 98k miles in white, exceptionally clean **£995**

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S REG MERCEDES S320 in metallic silver, leather interior, ONLY 37,000 MILES.....YES ONLY 37,000 MILES FROM NEW, last owner for 5 years, Mercedes service history – This car is in genuine and original condition, a collector's item ..... **POA**

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MCLAREN LAUNCHES DESIGNER SPECIALS BY: CHRIS RUSSON

AN extra personal touch is about to be delivered by McLaren which is adding customised editions to its 570S range.

Five design editions of the model have been drawn up by the British supercar brand's style team to embellish the £143,000 two seat coupe.

Each edition finish comprises the McLaren designers' choice on exterior paint, wheel style and finish, exhaust style, and calliper colour – along with what the designers have decided is the company's existing interior package that most complements the exterior.

The design treatment, which adds £8,500 to the price, is an extension of the By McLaren personalisation theme already available on its models.

Design Edition 1, for example, combines a Vermillion Red body with five-spoke wheels and diamond-cut finish, Stealth exhaust and red brake callipers while the interior features a By McLaren package of Carbon Black Alcantara and Apex Red Nappa leather seats, Jet Black Nappa leather upper facia, Apex Red Nappa leather lower facia, Slate Grey contrasting stitching, a dual colour co-ordinated steering wheel and a McLaren branded leather sill finisher.

Previously such items could only be specified separately although customers will still be able to add other extras to their cars.

As well as Vermillion Red the other body colours of the five 570S Design Editions are Onyx Black, Storm Grey, Ventura Orange, and Silica White.

McLaren says the first deliveries of the special models will be made during 2017.

SOMETHING SPECIAL FROM SSANGYONG BY: STEWART SMITH

THIS is the latest special edition seven-seater from SsangYong which the Korean company says is ideal for business or family motoring.

The Black or White special comes, as you would expect, with distinctive metallic black or white paint job and includes a smart new dark grey interior complete with new style seating.

It is based on the top-of-the-range Turismo ELX with selectable four-wheel drive and these special editions come with a higher specification that includes a seven-speed Mercedes-Benz automatic transmission, cruise control, parking sensors, rear seating privacy glass, 17-inch diamond cut alloy wheels, roof rails, heated front seats, rain sensing wipers and automatic headlights.

Other special features include a heated steering wheel, Kenwood DAB radio and sat nav.

At over five metres long and with a three-metre wheelbase, the Turismo is larger than a standard sized people carrier, and features an upgraded 2.2 litre Euro 6 diesel engine.

The Turismo provides a spacious interior in which seven adults can travel in comfort with their luggage loaded in the back without having to compromise on passenger accommodation.

There are three rows of seats as well as the large load space which can be further increased by removing the third row completely. This gives a load carrying capability of between 875 litres with seven adults seated, through to two adults and 3,146 litres of load space.

With its selectable four wheel drive with low ratio the Turismo is especially safe and practical whether towing a caravan, horsebox or boat trailer, or when driving on snow and ice, and has an impressive two tonne towing capacity.

The Black or White models are available from £26,250.

LATEST LOTUS ONLY FOR THE BRAVE BY: DAVID WHINYATES

IF you've got the urge for a true supercar but can't run to the six figure asking price, Lotus has the answer – for less than half the price of some rivals.

With enough grunt to more than match some of the most exotic Italian and German flying-machines the new Lotus Exige Sport 380 is ferociously fast and costs a "mere" £67,900.

Taking the fight straight to £100,000-plus supercars, this new, top-of-the-range model carries over the lessons learnt in the development of last year's Exige Sport 350, but with significant revisions lowering weight, boosting power and enhancing aerodynamics.

According to Lotus, this Exige is "definitely not for the timid" and "offers a pure, undiluted drive".

The Sport 380 is blisteringly fast off the line, dispatching the 0-60mph sprint in a mere 3.5 seconds before reaching a top speed of 178 mph.

This stunning performance comes courtesy of an uprated 3.5-litre, supercharged V6 engine which generates 375 hp at 6,700 rpm and 410 Nm (302 lb ft) of torque at 5,000 rpm.

And with a dry weight of just 1,066 kg it boasts a potent power-to-weight ratio of 352 hp per tonne. Much of the weight saving has been achieved by extensive use of carbon fibre parts including the front splitter, revised front access panel, new rear wing and rear diffuser surround. In total Lotus engineers have shaved around 30kg off the weight of the Exige 350.

A revised and sophisticated six-speed manual gearbox is fitted as standard with an optional six-speed automatic gearbox with sequential paddle shift becoming available from Spring next year.

The Sport 380 is available as a roadster as standard and as a coupe as an option. Various personalisation options, including a Track Pack, are available.

According to Jean-Marc Gales, CEO of Group Lotus: "The Exige Sport 380 is so good, that it is no longer the best in class, it's now in a class of its own."

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2006 56 **FIESTA 1.4 STYLE CLIMATE** 5 door, red, 71,000 miles £2995

VAUXHALL CORSA

2014 14 **CORSA 1.2 SE** 5 door, black, 6,000 miles £7995
2009 59 **CORSA 1.2 DESIGN** 5 door, blue, 61,000 miles £3995
2008 58 **CORSA 1.4 SXI** 5 door, Silver, 48,000 miles £3995
2007 07 **CORSA 1.3 CDTi LIFE** 5 door, black £2995
2005 05 **CORSA 1.2 LIFE** 5 door, green £1695
2002 52 **CORSA 1.0 CLUB** 5 door, blue, full MOT £1495

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2014 14 **ASTRA 1.4 DESIGN** 5 door, silver £7995
2010 10 **ASTRA 1.4 CLUB** 5 door, silver, 58,000 miles £3995
2008 58 **ASTRA 1.6 LIFE** 5 door, silver, 46,000 miles £3495
2004 04 **ASTRA 1.6 SXi** 5 door, silver, 76,000 miles £1995

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2011 61 **VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2SE** Auto Silver 8,000 miles £5995
2010 60 **AGILA 1.2 CLUB** silver, 36,000 miles £3995

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2013 63 **INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi ELITE SPORTS TOURER** auto, grey, 45,000 miles £10995
2012 12 **SEAT LEON 2.0 TDi FR PLUS** 5 door, white, 27,000 miles £10995
2012 62 **VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0 CDTi (160) SE TOURER** silver 24,000 miles £9995
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2012 62 **PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi (90) ACCESS** aluminium silver £6995
2012 12 **PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDi SPORTIUM** 5 door, silver, 50,000 miles £5495
2011 11 **QASHQAI 1.5 DCi N-TEC** caffe latte, 50,000 miles £8495
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2005 55 **MONDEO 2.0 TDCi (130) GHIA** 5 door, gold, 120,000 miles £1995
2005 05 **PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Hdi LX** 3 door, gold, 90,000 miles £1995
2003 53 **MITSUBISHI SPACE STAR 1.9 Di-D EQUIPPE** 5 door, grey £1295
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2014 14 **FIAT PANDA 1.3 MULTI JET TREKKING** 5 door, green, 12,000 miles £7995
2012 12 **FIAT 500 LOUNGE** blue, 25,000 miles £5995
2008 08 **FIAT PANDA 1.3 DYNAMIC MULTIJET** 5 door, A/C, yellow £2995
2003 53 **FIAT PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE** 5 door, green, 76,000 miles £1495

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2013 13 **FOCUS 2.0 TDCi TITANIUM X** 5 door, candy red, 40,000 miles £10495
2013 13 **FOCUS 1.0 ZETEC** black, 20,000 miles £8995
2009 09 **FOCUS 1.6 TITANIUM 5** door, sea grey, 82,000 miles £4495
2003 03 **FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC** 3 door, vitro £995
2002 52 **FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC** estate, blue, 95,000 miles, full MOT £1495

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS

2011 60 **V.W. CADDY MAXI LIFE 1.6 TDi** auto, grey, 19,000 miles £11495
2009 59 **V.W. CADDY MAXI 1.9 TDi** 5 seat, red, 11,000 miles £9995

FORD KA

2010 60 **FORD KA ZETEC** blue, 23,000 miles £4995
2008 58 **FORD KA ZETEC CLIMATE,** silver, 67,000 miles £2295

NISSAN

2015 15 **NISSAN MICRA 1.2 TEKNA** 5 door, grey, 6000 miles £8495
2012 61 **QASHQAI 1.5 DCi N-TEC** red, 51,000 miles £9995
2011 11 **QASHAQI 1.5 DCi ACENTA** nightshade, 63,000 miles £7995
2010 60 **QASHQAI 1.5 DCi N-TEC** blue, 80,000 miles £8495

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2015 65 **PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE** 5 door, auto, silver, 2100 miles £8495
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2011 61 **MERIVA 1.7 CDTi EXCLUSIV** auto, silver, 44,000 miles £5995
2011 11 **HYUNDAI i30 1.6 CRDi PREMIUM** 5 door, auto, red, 82,000 miles £4995
2010 59 **JAGUAR XF V6 3.0D PREMIUM LUXURY** auto, silver, 57,000 miles £12,495
2010 59 **PEUGEOT 107 URBAN** 3 door, auto, blue £3995
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2005 05 **ZAFIRA 1.8 DESIGN** auto, black, 78,000 miles £2995
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2014 64 **HYUNDAI i10 1.0 PREMIUM** grey, 12,500 miles £7495

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2014 14 **ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTi DESIGN NAV** red, 19,000 miles £9495
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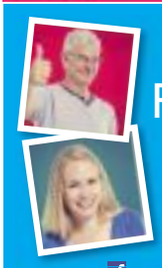

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Public Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

IN BANKRUPTCY
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COURT

NO 83 of 1989 **RE: DONALD WILLIAM FREDERICK HALLETT**
Who at the date of the bankruptcy order 25/9/1989 resided at 22 High Street, Finedon, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN9 5JN.
NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed.
I intend to pay within four months from *28th December 2016* (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 100.00 p/£.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by *28th December 2016* (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at the address below to supply a form.

NO 465 of 1993 **RE: DAVID WINDLE**
Who at the date of the bankruptcy order 21/9/1993 resided at 32 Stewart Drive, Silverstone, Towcester, Northamptonshire NN12 8TP, United Kingdom.
NOTE: the above-named was discharged from the proceedings and may no longer have a connection with the address listed.
I intend to pay within four months from *28th December 2016* (being the last day for proving) the first and final dividend of 100.00 p/£.
Creditors who have not yet proved their debts must do so by *28th December 2016* (being last day of proving) otherwise they will be excluded from the dividend. The required proof of debt form is available on the Insolvency Service website (www.bis.gov.uk/insolvency, select "Forms" and then form 6.37). Alternatively, you can contact my office at the address below to supply a form.

D Gibson, Official Receiver and trustee, LTADT, PO Box 4376, Companies House, Crown Way, Cardiff CF14 8JX. Tel: 029 2038 0178
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Local Authority Notices

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (THE DRIVE, NORTHAMPTON)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of The Drive, Northampton as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of The Drive, Northampton from Abington Grove and Park Avenue North.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during carriageway repairs and associated works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 19th December 2016 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to five days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Abington Grove, Kingsley Park Terrace, Kettering Road and Park Avenue North.

Dated this 1st day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T16/463

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604-883400.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (A5001 CROWN WAY & NORTHAMPTON ROAD; B645 NORTHAMPTON ROAD, RUSHDEN)
(TEMPORARY 30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic and restricting traffic from proceeding a speed exceeding 30mph along those lengths of the A5001 Crown Way and Northampton Road; B645 Northampton Road, Rushden as specified in the Schedule below.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during Rushden Lakes development works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 30th November 2016 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the roads will be restricted until 31st March 2017.

Dated this 1st day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance PKG/T16/512

If you require any further information, please contact Gary Thorp on 01604 883400.

SCHEDULE
(Lengths of roads to which 30 mph speed limit applies)

A5001 Crown Way and Northampton Road – from A45 to Pegasus Way roundabout.
B645 Northampton Road – from 40 mph sign to A45 roundabout.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (WEST STREET, EARLS BARTON)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of West Street, Earls Barton as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of West Street, Earls Barton from Northampton Road to Churchill Road.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during carriageway/ footway repairs and associated works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 1st December 2016 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to four days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Doddington Road, Earls Barton Road, High Street, The Ridge, Doddington Road, Croyland Road, Northampton Road, A4500 and Northampton Road.

Dated this 1st day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T16/513

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604-883400.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (SALCEY STREET, NORTHAMPTON)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Salcey Street, Northampton as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Salcey Street, Northampton from Forest Road to Queen Eleanor Road.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during carriageway repairs and associated works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 6th December 2016 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for one day.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Forest Road, Playdell Road and Queen Eleanor Road.

Dated this 1st day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T16/515

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604-883400.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (PUBLIC FOOTPATH RG7 (PART) – PARISH OF COSGROVE)
(TEMPORARY CLOSURE) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Northamptonshire County Council have made an Order the effect of which is to temporarily prohibit pedestrians from proceeding along that length of Public Footpath RG7 in the Parish of Cosgrove as specified below. Access to land or premises adjacent to the said length of footpath is unaffected.

RIGHT OF WAY TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: The existing route to be closed begins at point A at National Grid Reference ('NGR') SP7965 4335. The route travels generally south west for approximately 739 metres to point B at NGR SP7956 4268.
The route is shown by a solid black line between points A – B.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required due to a collapsed bridge.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 6th December 2016 and will continue in force for a period of six months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of notices.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: There is no suitable alternative route.

Dated this 1st day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/ROW/272

If you require any further information please contact Colin Wick on 01604 883455.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (SHOWSLEY ROAD, EASTON NESTON & SHUTLANGER)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Showsley Road, Easton Neston and Shutlanger as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Showsley Road, Easton Neston and Shutlanger from Main Road to A43.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during BT overhead works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 3rd January 2017 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to four days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use A43, A5 and Shutlanger Road.

Dated this 1st day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T16/520

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604-883400.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (LEICESTER LANE, MORETON PINKNEY)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Leicester Lane, Moreton Pinkney as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Leicester Lane, Moreton Pinkney from Banbury Road to Little Close.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during installation of new water connection.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 9th January 2017 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2016.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for up to three days.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: use Banbury Road, Upper Green, Canons Ashby Road, Banbury Road and Eydon Road.

Dated this 1st day of December 2016
QUENTIN BAKER
Director of Law & Governance
PKG/T16/521

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604-883400.

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Local Authority Notices

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990
THE TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2011
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Peter Baguley, Head of Planning – Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning
Northampton Borough Council
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Licensing Notices

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Public Notice

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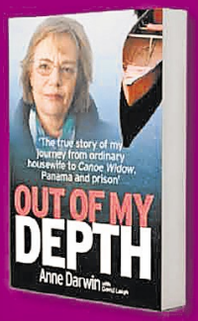

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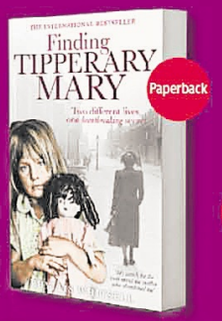

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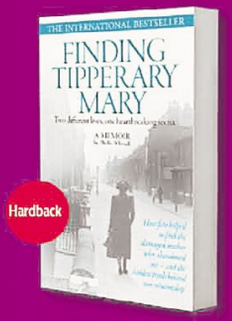

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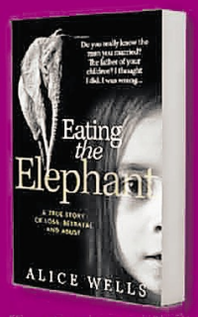

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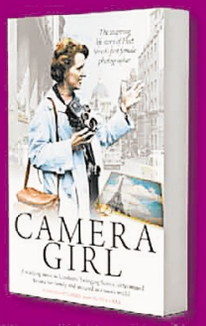

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Herald & Post Sport

It's been a blast. . .

. . .Sports editor Matt Wright picks out his five best games from his time at the paper

There was hardly a dull moment in my 15 months as sports editor for the Herald & Post, with the town of Northampton yet again proving to be a powerhouse when it comes to sport in this country.

More often than not, it's felt like I've been in the right place at the right time as my all-too--brief time as head of the paper's sports department has coincided with Northampton Town surging to promotion from League Two and the Northants Steelbacks winning the T20 Blast.

It's been hard to squeeze this list down and some brilliant events that I attended (eg Ben Foden's winner at Harlequins, final stage of the Women's Tour) have had to be left out.

Also, I couldn't be everywhere at once, hence why the match where Cobblers sealed promotion last season hasn't made it.

With that being said, here, in reverse order, are my five favourite memories...

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS: Working for the Herald & Post allowed me to cover a game involving the team I support and to travel to France to report on Saints

5 Nottinghamshire Outlaws v Northants Steelbacks – 6 June 2016

On a scorching hot day at Trent Bridge, records fell left, right and centre – with sixes being smashed to other parts in between – as Northants threatened to chase down Notts' mammoth 445-8.

Never before had there been a higher-scoring one-day game in this country, with this epic starting with an opening partnership of 342 between the hosts' Michael Lumb and Riki Wessels.

MATCH WINNER: Northants batsman Josh Cobb

That the Steelbacks got so close was down to Rory Kleinveldt (bottom, left) blasting 128 off just 63 balls, while batting with a runner due to a side strain, but they eventually fell 20 runs short.

4 Plymouth Argyle v Northampton Town – 12 January 2016

Travelling down to Plymouth for a midweek game on a freezing Tuesday night in January – there were a few questioning my sanity for undertaking this.

The return journey made me wonder if it was such a good idea as well, as I eventually got home at 3:45am, with the subsequent lack of sleep making me appear the following day to have been out on the lash.

But the match made it worthwhile because it marked a big moment in the Cobblers season, as they defeated Plymouth 2-1 on their own patch to close the gap on the then-league leaders before they eventually overtook and sprinted clear of them.

3 Racing 92 v Northampton Saints – 12 December 2015

Unfortunately, this turned out to be my only trip to France covering Saints in the European Champions Cup, but doing this proved why that competition is so special to club rugby.

Premiership games, on the whole, just don't have the same feel, although this was all a bit of a rush as I travelled to and from Paris in one day via Eurostar, leaving my house at six in the morning and getting back not long before midnight.

Racing's former All Black trio of Dan Carter, Chris Masoe and Joe Rokocoko handed out a lesson to Northampton, as they were thrashed 33-3, but it's a real shame I won't get the chance to follow them to the continent again, at least not with this publication.

2 Northampton Town v Manchester United – 21 September 2016

Seeing as we're at the final edition, I might as well out myself as an avid United fan. I never thought Iain Dowie could make me as happy as when he drew their number to book a trip to Sixfields in the third round of the EFL Cup.

Covering a match involving the team I support was an ambition achieved for me, although by then I had enough of an affinity with the Cobblers to want to see them go well and the atmosphere around the place was pretty special.

It all meant I was barely miffed when Alex Revell equalised in a match the Premier League giants went on to win 3-1. Not as miffed as at the rather petty post-match no-show of Jose Mourinho.

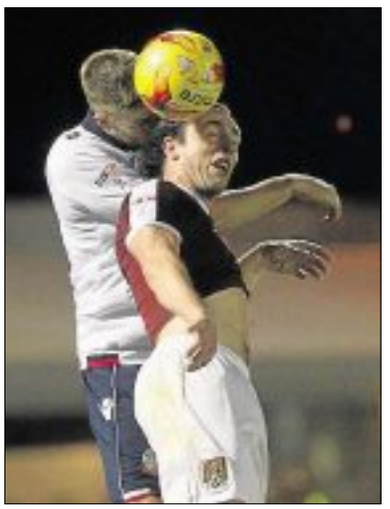
1 T20 Finals Day – 20 August 2016

The best day in the job was another long one – I was at Edgbaston for almost 14 hours – but when the reward is seeing the team you're covering go home with the trophy, who cares?

Northants came back brilliantly in both their semi-final against Nottinghamshire and the final against Durham, after being reduced to 14-3 and 9-3 in those matches respectively.

They got over the line to claim their second T20 title in four years just before the heavens opened, meaning me and the rest of the Northampton press corps got a soaking as we interviewed players and coaches on the outfield following the presentation.

Again, no-one was bothered about that by this point.



GAME CHANGER: Northampton's John-Joe O'Toole

Cushty Clough plays it cool as the Trotters get the better of Town

GRIPPED BY THE COBBLERS

BY TOM REED
sport@lsnmedia.co.uk

Bolton's Zach Clough was 'creme de la menthe' as the Trotters claimed a 1-0 win against Northampton Town at Sixfields on Saturday.

Cobblers proved they weren't dipsticks, however, with in an improved second half showing, but still came off on the losing side.

It's now four defeats in a row for Rob Page's team, but at least they came through a sticky first-half period after Bolton's Clough had opened the scoring on 25 minutes.

Cobblers had started the game fairly brightly in front of a healthy crowd of 7,018. The cultured midfielder Matt Taylor kissed the Bolton post early on with a left-footed strike after good wing work from Kenji Gorré.

But, little by little, an impressive Wanderers side began to take hold of the game, emboldened by the elegant Clough and the rangy forward Sammy Ameobi, of Newcastle fame.

With Cobblers choosing to shadow box rather than land blows on their opponents, Clough and Ameobi were able to use their above average close control and skip past their opponents.

Getting at Northampton's makeshift defence would have been key to Bolton boss Phil Parkinson's tactics and indeed it was a simple piece of interplay which unlocked the Town defence. Jak McCourt was nowhere near alive enough to a Bolton throw in next to the West Stand leaving Ameobi to free Clough for a neat finish past Cornell.

Post-match, Parkinson called Bolton's Northampton test the toughest of the season but in truth the Trotters are the best team Town have faced so far.

In Ameobi and Clough, the Macron Stadium side have two gifted players capable of playing Championship football. Bolton's possession, at times, exhausted Cobblers like a technical boxer is able to outwit a heavier opponent through technique and movement.

Yet even the smartest of fighters can only last so long against two heavyweights and Cobblers went hell for leather in the second period when Marc Richards came on to partner Alex Revell.

Yet, scoring is and was a Northampton problem and even a late John-Joe O'Toole finish was chalked off for offside. That made it 330 minutes without scoring as the full time whistle blew on a chilly afternoon.

Realistically, Page should be given the January transfer window and there are indications he wants to spend. Yet we've seen before managers like Gary Johnson, forever looking for the next transfer cycle and perhaps not doing the best with the cards dealt that football is played in the now, not the next week.

Next up for Town is an FA Cup date at Stourbridge FC which looks so much like a banana skin the match may as well be sponsored by Fyffes.

Lose against Stourbridge and there will be plenty, rightly or wrongly, calling for the board to nip things in the bud and deny Page the transfer window he so obviously needs.

Herald & Post Sport

Hill is ready to move mountains for Saints

SAINTS

BY MATT WRIGHT
sport@lsnmedia.co.uk

In the case of Northampton Saints prop Paul Hill, one man's punishment is another man's opportunity, as he prepares to step in for two crucial matches at tighthead.

Hill's chance has come as a result of the two-match suspension that was handed out to Kieran Brookes, Saints' first-choice in the No.3 jersey for their Premiership matches so far this season.

Brookes' ban came as a result of his red card in the 22-16 defeat against Newcastle last Friday, when his charge into a ruck led to his arm making contact with the head of Falcons hooker Scott Lawson.

It now means his fellow England international Hill is likely to start Northampton's next two matches – Saturday's East Midlands derby at Leicester Tigers, followed by the Champions Cup clash with Leinster at Franklin's Gardens.

Hill said of his upcoming chance: "I'm looking forward to it; Welford Road away. It's a good opportunity to put a message on, personally, that I'm pushing on and I'm in a position to do the best that I can."

Hill had to be introduced early in the second half against Newcastle for the first scrum following Brookes' dismissal and he explained how hard it was for Saints to adapt to playing a whole half a man light.

"There's a lot more pressure obviously because you're a man down and I'm not, myself, playing for two men, but we've got to cover for a space that's missing," he said. "Obviously it means you've got to do more around the field because the team has kind of got to step up to the mark."

Should Hill start at the weekend (Gareth Denman might still have something to say about that), it wouldn't be his first experience of doing so at Leicester, as Brookes was injured for that fixture last season.

Whatever happens at Welford Road this time around, it will do well to match the drama of what happened in that match, as Freddie Burns' penalty with the last kick snatched a 30-27 win for the Tigers.

It was also notable for Hill having a remarkable try disallowed when his effort, run in from the halfway line, was harshly chalked off for a high tackle in the build-up.

Hill said of that memory: "It was one of my better 'tries' – I can't promise a repeat on Saturday but I'd certainly like to give it a good crack trying to score another one of them. Don't think I'll get another one like that in my career, though.

"I made to the line, I think that counts but the fact that it didn't count as a try was a bit of a bummer. That's life, isn't it?"

Hill's performance on that day went a long way to Eddie Jones calling him into the England squad for last season's Six Nations, but the 21-year-old's sole focus is on Saints picking up a first win at the home of their rivals in close to a decade.

"It's always a big game," he said. "Every single player picks up and nothing has to be said in the meetings because everyone inside understands that this is going to be one of the biggest games of the year."

STEPPING UP: Paul Hill is set to start in Saturday's trip to Leicester

Dickens unhappy Green wasn't punished

Kieran Brookes' sending-off incident against Newcastle also this week to a ban for the Falcons' Calum Green, but Northampton Saints assistant Alan Dickens is annoyed the lock wasn't dealt with during the game.

Northampton's punishment was immediate last Friday, as they were made to play just over half the match with 14 men, but Green was only put up in front of the RFU disciplinary panel after being cited post-match.

At the same hearing that led to Brookes being handed a two-week ban, Green was suspended for one week after he pleaded guilty to striking the Saints prop with his forearm in retaliation to his charge into Newcastle hooker Scott Lawson.

Dickens said: "The result with Kieran was that he got a red card – the directives are if you make contact with the head you get a red card.

"I've been involved in the game of rugby since the age of six and the greater crime has always been the retaliation and I saw at the time that Calum Green came in with an elbow to Kieran Brookes' chin, so it's a strike to the head.

"You've then got to question the values of the game because it was obvious – it was there for us to see, but they didn't look at it. When it goes to the TMO, somebody is sitting in a room, wherever it is, they're detached from the emotions of the game and they can make a decision based on what's in front of them. For them to miss that was a joke."

Saints battled on gamely despite their disadvantage before eventually succumbing to Vereniki Goneva's late intercept try in the 22-16 defeat.

HE'S OFF: Kieran Brookes is shown a red card against Newcastle

"It was a pivotal moment in the game," Dickens said. "We're positive with how the lads responded, but in terms of having four officials – three involved in the game, one in the TMO box – and they still can't come up with the right decision.

"If that's the directive with Kieran then he got what was expected, but for them not to then look at anything around that incident is beyond belief."

UP IN LIGHTS: Northants had a successful 2016

Northants to play first Champo day-nighter

CRICKET

Northamptonshire will play their first-ever day/night match in the County Championship next year, after the ECB revealed the fixtures, across all formats, for the 2017 season.

The floodlights at Wantage Road will be put to full use from Monday 26 June, when Leicestershire are the visitors, forming a part of a full round of day/night fixtures being played that week.

Division Two in the County Championship will comprise of ten teams next year, with each county playing 14 matches, a reduction from the 16 of previous seasons.

Northants will open their campaign with a home game against Glamorgan, which will start on Friday 7 April, with the first excursion of the season taking them to Derbyshire the following week.

David Ripley's side will hope to maintain their momentum from this past season, as they won their final three games in four-day cricket to finish fifth in the table.

The curtain will be brought down on their campaign at Grace Road, where they make the return journey to Leicestershire from Monday 25 September.

Of real interest will be the defence of the Steelbacks' T20 Blast title, which will get under way against Derbyshire on Friday 7 July. The group stage of the competition will take place across a couple of blocks at the height of summer next year, with less of the switching between formats, although there is a Championship game against Gloucestershire squeezed in from Sunday 6 August.

Should Northants qualify, they'll be looking to reach their fourth Finals Day in five years with the finale at Edgbaston set to take place on Saturday 2 September.

The One-Day Cup will also be played in a concentrated period in 2017, with Northants playing the first of their eight matches in the North Group against Warwickshire on Thursday 27 April.

The group stage will end with another home game against Nottinghamshire just over three weeks later, with the final of the 50-over competition taking place at Lord's on Saturday 1 July.

The Steelbacks reached the quarter finals of the One-Day Cup last season, when they fell to a dramatic one-wicket defeat at home to Surrey.

Herald & Post Sport

LAST TIME: The Saints stunned Gillingham

Brackley striving to upset the odds again

FOOTBALL

Brackley Town will be looking to cause another sensation in this season's FA Cup when they travel to Blackpool in the second round of the competition on Saturday.

It's only the second time in their 126-year history that the Saints have reached this stage and, just as they did on the previous occasion, they earned it after upsetting League One Gillingham in a replay at St James Park.

It was certainly no fluke for Brackley, of National League North, as they took the lead three times in that tie before eventually prevailing against the Gills.

The reward is a trip to a club two divisions above them, albeit one that is in good form, after their 4-1 win against Newport County last weekend took Blackpool into a play-off place in League Two.

Brackley manager Kevin Wilkin said: "We've watched Blackpool a few times and we know that they're a powerful, direct side who will ask questions of us.

"It will be up to us to get in their faces and make life difficult for them and if we can do that and perform at our best we'll give ourselves a chance of making a real game out of it. I thought we were fantastic against Gillingham and thought we fully deserved to come through the tie on the balance of the two games. We'll be looking for more of the same of the players at Blackpool."

A knock to winger Glenn Walker (dead leg) will be assessed ahead of the weekend, but Brackley's small squad is otherwise injury-free and they'll be travelling to Bloomfield Road in good shape.

They followed up their wonderful victory against Gillingham with a 2-1 home win against Harrogate Town that kept them within three points of a play-off spot in English football's sixth tier.

After this, they were taken to a replay in the FA Trophy by Mickleover Sports before seeing them off by defeating them 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Wilkin said: "We're confident going into the tie, but we know we're going to have to work very hard to pick up a result there. We've shown so far this season that we're capable of playing really good football."

'We must be switched on'

COBBLERS

BY MATT WRIGHT
sport@lsnmedia.co.uk

Northampton Town will be preparing for their FA Cup second round tie at non-league Stourbridge in the same manner as last week's fixture with promotion-chasing Bolton, according to their manager Rob Page.

For the second round in a row, the Cobblers will be faced with opposition four divisions below them, only this time they'll be on the road, as they travel to the Northern Premier League side on Sunday.

They'll do so off the back of four narrow defeats in a row and without a goal in their last three games, so Stourbridge would be forgiven for thinking they're playing Northampton at the right time.

But Town are determined a team 88 places below them in the football pyramid will not cause a shock and deny them a potentially lucrative tie in round three.

Page said: "The biggest message is we can't underestimate the opposition. We'll be approaching the game as if we were approaching Bolton last week, nothing important will change from that point of view.

"Mentally, we need to be switched on and ready for a battle because there's upsets in the competition year in year out.

"Like I said in the previous round [against Harrow Borough], we've got to make sure that it's not us on Sunday."

Stourbridge produced a mini-upset in round one by knocking out Whitehawk – from the division above them – after a replay, where Page got his first glimpse of the side managed by Gary Hackett.

"They were good on the night, convincing winners," Page said, adding: "There was a good turnout – it was just short of 2,000 supporters there, so it was a fantastic turnout for Stourbridge.

"We'll have to be at our best on Sunday to get the win."

November was a frustrating month for Northampton, although they emerged from last Saturday's 1-0 defeat against Bolton with their confidence intact after producing a good performance in the second half at Sixfields.

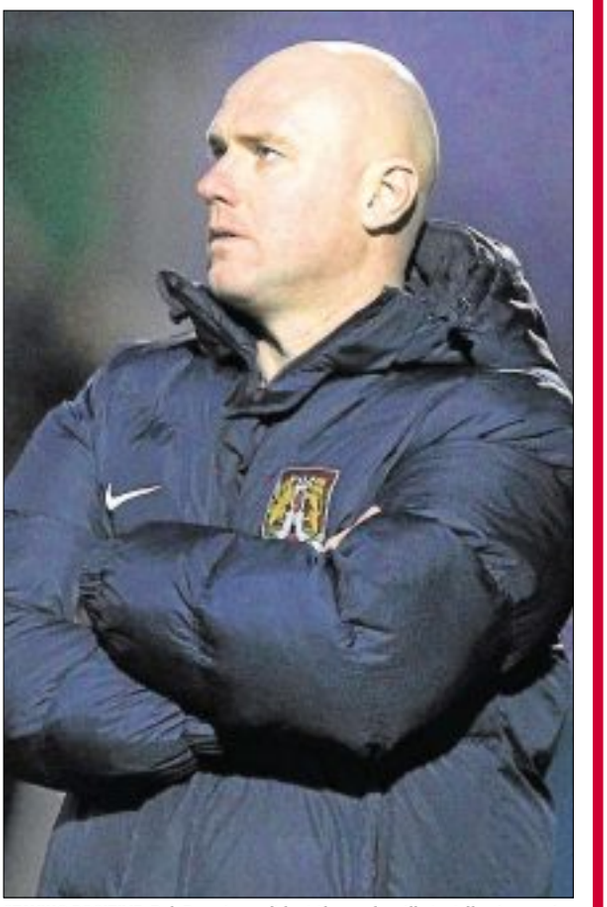
Their recent run has seen them drop 11 places in the League One table to 17th as the goals have dried up, but Page is confident the Cobblers will be hitting the net regularly again soon enough.

He said: "Not three weeks ago we were fifth in the league and the second-highest scorers in the division, so I find that [talk of lack of goals] surprising, but people will have their opinions.

"We've had a difficult three or four weeks now with regards to the results, they haven't quite gone for us, but it was great to see the fans appreciate the effort the boys put in on Saturday.

"Again, I've looked at the goal and it's a legitimate goal – John-Joe [O'Toole] is not offside.

"It's frustrating, when it's not going your way, but it will turn. If we keep giving levels of performances that we're giving, it will turn and it's important that we all stick together."



STAYING POSITIVE: Rob Page is confident the goals will start flowing again

McCourt sees chance to put things right

Midfielder Jak McCourt is determined to ensure that Northampton Town will not be the victims of an FA Cup shock when they face Stourbridge in the second round on Sunday.

The Cobblers were given a fright at the same stage of the competition last season, when eighth-tier Northwich Victoria took a 2-0 lead at Sixfields before a dramatic comeback in the final ten minutes turned the tie on its head.

Town suffered no such problems in thrashing Harrow 6-0 in the first round, but they have lost all four of their league fixtures since that match, scoring only one goal in the process.

McCourt believes, however, that this weekend will see Northampton put a lot of things right following a frustrating few weeks that has seen them tumble down the League One table.

He said: "Everyone's buzzing for it. It's a game where we can put everything right. We'll go out there and we're not taking them lightly one bit, we'll go into the game like it's a league game.

"We want to keep playing the way we're playing, but put the ball in the back of the net and we'll most definitely do that on Sunday."

When asked if the match has been moved to that day because of the BBC sensing an upset, McCourt said: "We're going to make sure that there's not going to be a shock on Sunday. All the lads have got their heads switched on and I'm telling you now that there will be no shock.

"Hopefully there's more goals there but if it has to be by one goal or two goals then we will win.

"When we played Harrow we prepared like it was a league game and we're doing the same this week – we'll have a look at their strengths and their weaknesses then we'll target them."

Herald & Post Sport
northampton-news-hp.co.uk

"They think it's all over... It is now."

Kenneth Wolstenholme

We have seen things you wouldn't believe

This is the final edition of the *Herald & Post* and we've been privileged to have been able to cover one of the best patches for sport in the country for the last 41 years.

Not many places in England can say it's home to a Football League club, a Premiership rugby team and a first-class cricket county but Northampton is able to proudly make this boast and all three have tasted success in recent years.

We've been able to cover all these proud moments and more, including Saints' Heineken Cup triumph in 2000 and the Cobblers' play-off final victory at Wembley in 1997 to name just two.

While our time may be coming to an end, here's hoping the good times aren't for our sportsmen and women.

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GIVE YOUR MOBILE NUMBER WHEN BOOKING TO OPT IN FOR A TEXT BACK SERVICE TO TELL YOU THE CAR DETAILS AND TO NOTIFY YOU WHEN YOUR CAR ARRIVES.
©LW

Very Happy Customers

YOUNG ASTHMATIC FEMALE HELPED TO HOSPITAL FOR FREE

Christyna Lynch wrote *"Today I was having a bad asthma attack as I was walking to the hospital I spotted a taxi of yours dropping someone off. I asked how much it would cost to get me to the hospital he asked whats wrong and I told him and he said no charge. And on the 29th of March I was having a bad morning and the driver was very nice and chatty getting my mind off of it. His cab was K**** and he knocked 2 pounds off of the price because of the bad morning. Well I would have been happy to pay the extra 2 quid but it made my morning. I will definitely use you guys again as you are quick and friendly."*

BOUNDS DRIVER HELPS STRANDED TEENAGER GET HOME SAFELY

Bev Halsey wrote *"Hi, I wanted to let you know about one of your drivers who went over and above last night. My daughter (18) was out in town with two friends. They had saved enough money through the evening for their taxi home. During the evening they bumped into a boy they knew from school with his mate. They asked if they could come in their taxi too, to split the cost. The Girls agreed as they knew one of the boys. The boys told the driver to go to kingsthorpe, down near Semilong and assured the girls they had the money for the diversion. When they got there the boys got out of the taxi and ran away, leaving the girls stranded with no extra money to pay to get home to moulton. Your driver was cross with the boys and obviously because he had witnessed what they had done was an absolute star. He knew the girls had no more money, but brought them home anyway. After the recent awful murder in Northampton, as a mother, I just wanted to say a massive thank you to him, repay him the money he was willing to forgo for the safety of my daughter and her friends, and make sure you knew what a great man he was to them.".*

CHILDREN SAFELY DELIVERED WHILST TRAVELLING ALONE

Rachel Simpson wrote *"Thank you for providing a safe service to get my children home tonight - it was great service to receive the text messages, take a call from the driver and to know my kids were safely driven home. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend your service again. would also like you to know that I appreciated the assistance of your phone receptionist when I made the booking this afternoon. She knew I was anxious as it was the first time I had to book a taxi for my kids to travel in alone. She understood my concern and was brilliant at ensuring she explained about the text messages and how you would communicate with me. Truly amazing service. Thank you."*

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